



Your Thanet

www.yourthanet.co.uk

Issue no 249

Stars join Olympic Torch fun as relay visits isle

By Marijke Cox
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IT'S travelled from the hills of Olympia in Greece and will eventually start the biggest sporting event this nation has ever held – and now it is coming to our streets.

Tommorrow, after its overnight stopover in Dover, the Olympic Torch will travel through our towns, starting at around 9.46am from Cliffsend.

It will be carried in turn through the streets by 67 inspirational torchbearers moving through St Lawrence at around 10am, Ramsgate at 10.13am and onto Broadstairs for approximately 10.45am.

The flame will move through St Peter's at 11.36am, Cliftonville around midday, Margate at 12.22pm, Westgate-on-Sea just after 1pm and to Birchington for 2.36pm.

It will then travel in convoy to Upstreet for the Canterbury leg of its journey.

Along the route will be a number of celebrity torchbearers including artist Tracey Emin, who will carry the torch from the Turner Contemporary, where her exhibition is currently on show.

Former Olympic swimmer Karen Pickering will also carry the torch through Margate, and in Ramsgate retired Olympic javelin thrower Steve Backley will take on the role.

Times are subject to change. See www.kentnews.co.uk for details of the full route.



TRANSPORT

FARES CUT FOR TORCH

THOSE going to see the Olympic Torch's visit to the isle have more reasons to celebrate after Stagecoach announced it will reduce its fares for the day.

Bus passengers will be able to benefit from a maximum £1 single fare during the day, although short-hop journeys will remain at 70p.

There is some disruption expected to the services, with roads around the isle closed to enable a smooth journey for the torch.

Stagecoach operations director Neil Install said: "The torch relay will obviously cause some disruption to bus services so in Thanet it may be better for some passengers to go the long way round on the loop to avoid congestion."

Visit www.stagecoachbus.com/eastkent for more information.

HEALTH

Rising fears over health centre after meeting with owners

ANGRY patients fed up with their doctor's practice have been left even more infuriated after a meeting with the owners of the surgery.

Concordia Health Ltd arranged a meeting with patients of Broadstairs Broadway Practice, which currently has no full-time GPs, in order to ease patients' fears.

Before the meeting took place, there were hopes that the gathering would be a crucial first step in sorting out the practice, but campaigners insist they left the meeting with no answers, saying the company were "complacent" in at the meeting.

Member of Save Our Health Service and patient Christine Tongue said: "It was a totally chaotic meeting and it makes me very worried about how Concordia is dealing with its problems.

"I'm not very optimistic because they are blaming the patients for making a fuss because people who had applied for the GP roles have withdrawn.

"They (Concordia) blamed bad publicity for shortages. It's not a good thing to blame your patients for kicking up a fuss."

The practice has been left with no full-time GPs since and patients have been forced to see locum doctors, which has unsettled some.

A spokesperson for Concordia said: "Although some patients have expressed concerns about the lack of permanent GPs, Concordia have an active recruitment campaign and are using long term locums to ensure there is no drop in patient access to clinicians."

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COURTS

Former leader to face trial

FORMER Thanet council leader Sandy Ezekiel will face trial next February after he denied charges of misconduct in public office.

Mr Ezekiel appeared in court accused of gaining financially from being in office, alongside Philip Emanuel who is charged with aiding and abetting.

FIRE

Fire destroys CAB centre

A Citizens' Advice Bureau has been destroyed by fire.

The CAB office in Piermont Park in Broadstairs contained hundreds of personal files which were caught in the blaze.

Evidence of theft has been left at the site, but the incident is not being treated as suspicious.

POLITICS

Sandys backs care reforms

MP Laura Sandys has welcomed government plans for social care reform.

She said: "So many families were left confused by the maze-like system that left people with no idea of where to turn for help. This will now all change."

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OLYMPICS

Torchbearer: I felt on top of the world after my 1948 relay run

By Dean Kilpatrick
dean.kilpatrick@archant.co.uk

A TORCHBEARER who carried the Olympic flame in 1948 will have his original aluminium torch firmly in his grip when he watches the 2012 flame tour Kent next week.

Frank Verge, 86, from Ightham, near Sevenoaks, carried the torch for two miles in the run-up to the 1948 London Games as the flame journeyed from Dover to Wembley Stadium.

Mr Verge still remembers vividly the moment he carried the torch through his village and described the feeling as "exhilarating".

He said: "I was very excited. I felt honoured to be able to do it and I felt really good. The evening that I carried the Olympic flame, I felt on top of the world.

"I picked it up at five minutes past four in the morning. Unlike this year, it was a lovely warm night and it was very pleasant.

"We had to go to Maidstone to get the bus and each runner was dropped off at his two mile point.

"There were dozens of people lining the streets, even at four in the morning. The whole village joined in.

"We had just been through the war and that wasn't a very pleasant experience with everyone shooting, bombing and fighting each other, so to see everyone playing games was wonderful and there was a feeling of peace."

Mr Verge had served in the Royal Marines and was an avid runner, which led him to form a sports club with his friends and ultimately gained him the golden ticket to carry the torch.

He said: "After the war, we all came out of the services and formed a sports club in Ightham, but nothing of Olympic standard and we had been going about two years.



HONOURED: Frank Verge, in 1948 and today

"The Olympics were about to be held in Wembley, and there was something in the paper asking clubs to apply to carry the torch.

"We then had to decide who was to run with it, the committee put on an eight-mile run and it happened to be me who hit the tape first."

Mr Verge said he was excited by the return of the Olympic Games to Britain and told the country to embrace the Games spirit.

He added: "There is a lot of controversy about blocked roads but I think I am very pleased about it coming back.

"I think it is wonderful to get together and play games rather than shooting each other."

Picture: TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL



It is believed that only four of the original torchbearers from 1948 are still alive.

■ **Hildenborough's Dame Kelly Holmes will join BBC South East Tonight for a special live Olympic torch programme on Wednesday, July 18, at 7pm, on BBC One, which will feature Mr Verge.**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Troops' Games call-up

SOLDIERS from the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders are to be drafted in to bolster Olympic Games security. Only last week the battalion, based at Howe Barracks in Canterbury, was told its numbers were to be slashed and the unit shifted back to Scotland to conduct ceremonial duties. But now they are to be among the 3,500 troops drafted in to help patrol the Games. It follows the failure by security firm G4S to provide the required number of guards.

2012 tourism campaign

TOURISM chiefs plan to make the most of the Games and hundreds of Olympic and Paralympic banners and flags are being put up at transport hubs and destinations by Visit Kent and Kent County Council.The Look campaign has seen pink Games ribbons placed around Turner Contemporary, and now attention is focused on dressing transport hubs and destination including Ashford, Canterbury, Dover, Folkestone, Maidstone, Margate, Ramsgate, Sevenoaks, and Tonbridge.

Relay traffic warnings

SIGNS highlighting the Olympic Torch Relay route are being put up, warning motorists of disruption to key roads next week. Kent County Council has put up 200 road signs to remind drivers about the route. To keep the way clear for the torchbearers, roads will be closed on a rolling basis so traffic can start moving again as soon as the convoy has passed. It is expected the closures will last no longer than 30 minutes.

TRAVEL

Port eager to avoid a Heathrow fiasco when sports fans to arrive

THE county's ports say they are ready for the influx of Olympic visitors and there will not be a repeat of the long queues seen at Heathrow in the last few weeks.

The Port of Dover said it knows more people will be arriving for the London Games which run from July 27-August 12, and they have prepared staff as well as possible.

Director of operations Robin Dodridge said: "The Port of Dover is working very closely with the Department for Transport, UK Border Agency and other relevant authorities to ensure we are fully prepared to handle the higher volumes of traffic anticipated during the Olympics in addition to our annual holidaymakers.

"Contingency plans are in place to ensure all traffic to the Port of Dover is handled efficiently and safely. Staff will be working round-the-clock to ensure that not only do visitors enjoy a relaxing start to their



Olympic experience, but also to maintain business as usual for the UK and Continental freight industry using the port 24-hours-a-day."

P&O Ferries said: "We have six ships operating 23 return sailings a day.

"As people book we will be able to increase staffing levels to cope with extra passengers.

"We do not anticipate any problems and are able to adapt quickly to rising passenger levels. Typically our ships can take up to 2,000 passengers each so we need to keep a close eye on booking numbers.

"It is possible for people to turn up, but we would advise them to book so they are guaranteed a spot on a ship at the time they need."

And a Border Force spokesman added: "We are fully prepared for the busy Olympic period and will be implementing our well-rehearsed plans.

"This includes staffing all immigration desks at key ports whenever necessary during the peak Olympic and Paralympic arrivals period."

Chris Newey, passenger director for the English Channel at DFDS Seaways, said: "We are fully prepared for the Olympics with additional seasonal staff already in place.

"We have also increased our capacity by up to 20 crossings daily with the launch of our Dover-Calais route. This means we now have up to 44 crossings a day between Dover and France.

"We are also planning to introduce a daily coach service from France to London during the Olympic Games."

Could you be the voice of Kent for health and social care?

From April 2013, a new independent organisation for Kent called Local Healthwatch, will provide information about access to health and social care services, gather and pass on the views and experiences of people who use services and potentially provide complaints advocacy.

Volunteers are needed to help get Local Healthwatch started, by being part of an interim shadow board to work out what is needed to make Local Healthwatch a success.

The shadow board will have 12 members and applications are being invited from existing LINk members, voluntary organisations, the community sector and people using, or potentially in need of, health or social care services in Kent.

For more information go to:
www.kent.gov.uk/health_and_wellbeing/local_healthwatch.aspx
email : kentph08@kent.gov.uk
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EDUCATION

School places crisis forces young pupils into temporary classrooms

By Marijke Cox
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HUNDREDS of pupils will be taught in mobile classrooms or school halls in the autumn term due to potential delays in building new primary provision.

It comes amid the crisis surrounding the lack of primary school places, where more than 10,000 extra places will be needed in Kent over the next few years.

An emergency £5.4 million programme is being implemented by Kent County Council to deliver additional provision at 18 schools across the county, through extensions and high-quality mobile classrooms.

But high demand for the September intake, combined with possible building delays, means some schools may have to use existing space, such as halls, until permanent provision is made. Mobile classrooms – some of which will become permanent – will also be used.

Cabinet member for education at KCC Cllr Mike Whiting said the council would be expanding provision at schools rated good or outstanding by Ofsted.

"We are determined as a county council that everyone who needs a place in reception year in September, 2012, will get one and where possible parents shall have one of their three preferences," he said.

"This will be by ensuring relevant classrooms and adequate classroom space is available in September.

"They aren't all temporary; some will be permanent and adaptations of existing buildings."

Deputy cabinet member for education Cllr Gary Cooke stressed the county was "not going back to mobile city" and that provision would be good quality.

But leader of the Labour Group at KCC Cllr Leslie Christie said it was nonsense that a decision over September places was being made so late.

"That cannot be good planning," he said. "Something has led to this, whether it's poor forecasting in the past or whether it's unique numbers that appeared this year."

He also stressed his concern over the impact additional provision could have on neighbouring schools, which could end up with a surplus of places.



POOR PLANNING: Education chiefs have been accused of failing to plan ahead for the numbers of children needing primary school places

But director of education Patrick Leeson said it was important that good quality education was expanded. Commenting on the late decision over provision he said: "This decision is not one we would normally be taking in July.

"In publishing our draft education commissioning plan we will have a more systematic approach to planning ahead and making enough provision for parents to have the school of their choice.

"We can be better at being systematic and planning ahead and our commissioning plan will help us to do that on a more regular basis, but there will always be last-minute decisions about some schools having to expand."

Earlier this year, KCC admitted to needing thousands of additional primary school places and the need to expand schools.

Education chiefs were accused of failing to plan ahead.

In its draft commissioning plan for education, the authority vows to increase places as well as the percentage of parents securing their preferred schools.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kaddy's a special guest

FORMER BBC weather girl Kaddy Lee-Preston will be making a guest appearance this weekend. The star, who quit BBC South East earlier this year, will be appearing on Saturday at the annual Haymaking Festival at Canterbury's Hambrook Marshes. A big turn-out is expected for the event which runs from 11am-4pm. Festival proceeds go to Kent Enterprise Trust to support people into training and employment who are unemployed or have learning difficulties.

Bike around Brands

IF you've always been convinced you could handle the bends at Brands Hatch like a professional, now's your chance to prove it – and help neglected children and young people. On Monday, July 16, at 6pm, Action for Children will be taking over the track with its sponsored bike ride challenge. It's a unique opportunity to cycling around the world famous circuit. For information, call 01622 693692 or email Selena, selena.goldsmith@actionforchildren.org.uk.

Top cop scoops award

A Kent Police detective been won the Outstanding Contribution to Tracking Child Sexual Offenders award from the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre. Det Chief Insp Matthew Long was recognised for establishing a risk assessment model – KIRAT – to measure the risk posed by individuals who are suspected to be involved in the viewing, taking, making or distribution of child abuse images.

ENTERTAINMENT

'Complex life' of drag queen La Rue revealed in movie

THE tangled love life of drag queen Danny La Rue, who died at his Kent home, is set to be made in to a major movie for the big screen.

La Rue was 81 when he passed away peacefully in his sleep in 2009 at the home he had retired to in Tunbridge Wells. He had been suffering from prostate cancer.

He will forever be known as the man who brought to the masses the once-taboo artistry of dressing as a woman for the sake of entertainment.

Dating back to Shakespearean times when female roles were played by men, it took Danny La Rue to bring drag to a mass modern day audience.

Born Daniel Patrick Carroll, he became a mainstream star, taking his act to the Royal Variety Performance where the drag queen took centre stage in front of the real Queen. He went on to do around 30 shows for the Royals, becoming an OBE in 2002.

But his private life was just as colourful and will be laid bare in a new bio-pic from Leopardrama, the company behind Missing, set in a Dover missing persons unit. It is being funded by the British Film Foundation with a screenplay from Martyn Hesford, who created Fantabulosa, about actor Kenneth Williams.



ALL DRESSED UP: Danny La Rue

The La Rue film examines his "complex web of relationships" with his manager and partner Jack Hanson, who died from a stroke in 1974, and also close companion and costume designer Annie Galbraith, who was with him when he died.

In early 2006, La Rue had also suffered a mild stroke and cancelled all performances.

Bob Hope said he was "the most glamorous woman in the world" and Noel Coward, who lived at St Margaret's Bay, called him: "The most professional, the most witty... and the most utterly charming man in the business."

After performing in a woman's wig during a World War Two concert show, his breakthrough was appearing at Winston's Club alongside Barbara Windsor.

He later opened his own London nightclub in 1964, attracting celebrities including Judy Garland, Warren Beatty, Shirley Bassey, Elizabeth Taylor, and royalty in the form of Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon.

Executive producer for Leopardrama Joey Attawia said: "Danny was a groundbreaking entertainer and a vital part of contemporary British popular history, which until now has been overlooked.

"He had a huge cultural and social impact in making the unacceptable acceptable and blazed the trail for the likes of David Bowie and Boy George.

"He broke the mould and we're thrilled to have signed agreements to bring this funny and complex story to life."

■ **More news at www.yourtunbridgewells.co.uk.**



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CAMPAIGN

‘Politicians lack the courage to make a tough decision and it leaves the people of Kent in limbo’

By Marijke Cox
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THE Government has been accused of “dithering” and leaving Kent’s people in limbo after the date for the start of its aviation consultation was delayed for a second time.

The news comes after months of uncertainty over when the debate would start – with the Department for Transport refusing to confirm a date, instead only saying it would be “before the summer”.

When previously asked if this would mean before parliamentary recess, which begins at the end of July, a DfT spokesman declined to say.

So it came as no shock when this week transport secretary Justine Greening confirmed the consultation over the UK’s international connectivity and hub status – including plans for expansion at Heathrow and a Thames estuary airport – would not take place until the autumn.

This followed the publication of the draft policy framework for the future of aviation growth, a document which, although mentioning the use of regional airports, omitted plans for the South East, such as the estuary airport proposal or growth at Heathrow, Gatwick or Stanstead. Instead the DfT said a “separate call for evidence on how to maintain the UK’s international connectivity and hub status” would follow later this year.



CONTROVERSIAL: George Osborne is reportedly in support of proposals for a third runway at Heathrow airport

But this is only once the industry has had time to consider the draft policy framework put forward this week.

Critics say the delay of the consultation, which would allow people a chance to finally have an official say on the Thames estuary plans, was down to David Cameron’s fears that it would provoke a Coalition rift.

The Lib Dems are against further airport expansion in the South East and while the Tories say they are opposed to a third runway at Heathrow, some senior Conservatives, reportedly including Chancellor George Osborne, are beginning to warm to the idea.

Options for an estuary airport include ‘Boris Island’ – London Mayor Boris Johnson’s proposal for an airport on reclaimed land off the north Kent coast. Another is from architect Lord Foster, who released plans for an international transport hub on Grain.

But while there are groups both for and against an estuary airport, all are united in wanting the consultation to begin.

Clive Lawrence, campaign director for Demand Regeneration in North Kent (DRINK), said putting off the consultation would ultimately mean a delay in any final decision.

“The decision was meant to be made next spring, but now it won’t be until after the next general election,” he said. “My shoulders slump at these dithering politicians, where political consideration comes before the needs of this country.

“They don’t have the courage to take a tough decision and it means people in north Kent are left in limbo.

“If you campaign and a politician has to make a decision the first thing they will look at is ‘will it lose me votes’?, which has nothing to do with the long-term interests of the country.

“Proper leadership is when they don’t ignore what people feel.

“Politicians need to look at the airport plan; we need a resolution.”

Joan Darwell, a campaigner from anti-airport group Friends of the North Kent Marshes, said it was a waiting game.

“It’s one delay after another, it’s just simmering,” she said. “We want to ignite passion in people to make them respond to the upcoming consultation, but it’s difficult when it keeps getting delayed.

“We need people to respond, we need the Government to get over the idea that the north Kent marshes is a place to build an airport.

“This consultation is a waiting game, I hope it’s in autumn but you just don’t know.”

Medway Council said while it welcomed the recent aviation document into the importance of existing regional airports, it was looking forward to autumn’s consultation: “We won’t hesitate in putting forward our case and making it clear why this idea should never get off the ground.”

■ **See letters on page 31 for more on the estuary airport.**

NO Estuary Airport

What are your views on the airport proposals? Share your opinion by writing to Airport Campaign, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS, or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk and put ‘airport’ in the subject. See the website www.stopestuaryairport.co.uk to sign the petition.

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ART





STEP TO IT: Artist Vivian Pedley, right, was inspired by the Tongswood World War One memorial, left

Artist putting his heart and 'sole' into memorial for fallen WWI heroes

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THE charitable people of Kent have put their best foot forward to come up with 800 pairs of shoes for an unusual new work of art to remember those who fell in World War One.

Artist Vivian Pedley said he needs to reach at least 2,500 pairs of shoes, and he doesn't mind what condition they are in.

He plans to use the shoes to line a pathway to the Tongswood war memorial that was put up in Hawkhurst just after World War One.



Mr Pedley, from Cornwall, was struck by the beauty of the memorial.

The exhibition circles around a war memorial in the grounds of the Tongswood Estate – now St Ronan's School in Hawkhurst. The owners of the estate, Charles Gunther and his wife built the memorial after the Great War and the 14 men named on it worked on the estate, or were associated with it. They include two of Charles' sons, Charles and Norman.

The artist said the poignant exhibition of sculptures will express the futures, hopes and dreams stolen by war.

His installation develops as you walk closer to the memorial site.

It opens with a sculpture trail incorporating the war poetry of Wilfred Owen which in turn leads to a walk of shoes, called We Could Have Walked with You.

He said: "This is a representation of the friends and descendants that these men never lived to have. These friends and descendants would have been the people of Kent. Therefore we are calling upon members of the community to bring forward as many old shoes as they can to make this major piece of work as intimate as possible.

"This is going to be a spectacular piece, but I need to reach a target of some 5,000 shoes, but in truth I would love to far exceed this.

"The bigger the number of shoes, the bigger the statement this work will make.

"I don't mind if they are men's, women's or children's shoes. They can be in any condition, dirty or broken, ones on their own or in pairs.

"I will accept anything, so dig out the old ballet shoes, smelly trainers, and even ski boots. I need them all, and have even got some used for golf and a flipper.

"I am delighted by the huge response we have had already, but the enormity of the statement I wish to make would be underlined by the greatest number of shoes, so I need many, many more."

Emma Davies, 39, co-owns the Walled Nursery, part of the estate, with her husband Monty.

She said: "There is so much history to our estate and the war memorial is quite often not noticed.

"We strongly feel that the 14 men from the estate who lost their lives in World War One – and those who have died in all wars since – should not be forgotten.

"The bulk of the exhibition is contained within the walls of our nursery which is a rare surviving example of a Victorian walled kitchen garden."

■ **Anyone with shoes they wish to donate for the artwork, can drop them off at The Walled Nursery, Water Lane, Hawkhurst, TN18 5DH, or at the Old Haberdashery, 33a High Street, Ticehurst TN5 7AS.**



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ENTERTAINMENT

No time to Lounge as festival chiefs start planning for 2013

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk





ORGANISERS of the Lounge on the Farm festival say work is already under way for next year after declaring last weekend's event a success.

The three-day festival at Merton Farm in Canterbury had been under threat after a rise in the number of crimes and concerns over under-age drinking last year.

But tighter security and a big cut in the number of youth tickets appears to have solved the issue, with just five arrests – four for drug offences.

With improved parking arrangements outside the venue, to prevent parking in the busy Nackington Road, festival chiefs also seemed to solve complaints from residents.

Founder Sean Baker said: "We're pleased with how the weekend went and proud that Lounge on the Farm has had a successful seventh year.

"We saw some brilliant performances from Emeli Sande, Dexys, The Charlatans, The Wombats, Example and DJ Wire. Chic getting everyone on stage for their last song was a definite highlight of the festival.

"Not to mention Stefan Gates asking everyone to sit on sandwiches in the Kitchen Theatre, and Fionn Regan closing the Farm Folk stage on Sunday and dancing the night away in Lounge Originals. We can't wait to get started on 2013."

Some 7,500 music lovers passed through the gates over the course of the weekend at the 10,000 capacity event, with many apparently put off by the inclement weather.

Festival organisers also confirmed they "tried everything" to accommodate Charlotte Church – the classical singer turned popstar – but "clashing commitments" forced her to cancel a low-key show at the event on the Sunday, despite her pleading to be put on the bill in the first place.

In total there were four arrests for drug offences and one following an assault "between people known to each other".

A 30-year-old man from Aylesham is also currently in custody after a security guard was injured as a car left the festival on Sunday night.

Chief Insp Steve Barlow said: "Kent Police has worked closely with the new event management company and its security contractors who have been co-operative throughout the preparation and planning of the event and during the actual festival.

"The result has been a safer festival for all to enjoy."

■ **See the leisure section at www.kentnews.co.uk for a full review and pictures.**



Pictures: DYLAN WOOLF

ON THE FARM: From left: Lounging on the Farm; Chic's Nile Rodgers meets the crowds; Kevin Rowland of Dexys performs



ENVIRONMENT

Campaigners' fury at demands for Green Belt land to be released for housing developments

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

PROPERTY experts are calling on the Government to release precious Green Belt land to allow for new affordable housing.

They are also demanding councils be named and shamed for failing to hit housing targets set out in local plans, in a bid to ensure house building continues.

It follows the release of figures in the annual Housing the Nation report which revealed the South East will miss out on almost 10,000 homes from previously set targets.

Under the Labour government, house building targets were set out under the South East Plan, with 654,000 expected in the region by 2026.

But this was scrapped by the Coalition and control handed to district and borough councils to decide on housing numbers.

It prompted three to reduce their targets and several others to consider lowering numbers.

Gravesham council reduced its figures from around 9,000 to 4,600.

Now property experts have warned of the impact on the housing market and the lack of places for people to live.

Tim Cann, head of residential at BNP Paribas Real Estate – one of the organisations behind the Housing the Nation report – said with 200,000 households on council waiting lists across the South East, new homes were crucial.

"Effective changes need to be made in order to accommodate those still waiting for affordable housing," he said.

"In order to keep the housing market alive, the Government needs to introduce swift changes which will ensure that current housing targets are not only met, but that they are not further reduced."

The report recommended releasing Green Belt land, publicising housing league tables on local authorities, and better engagement on the issue with communities.

It also called for the creation of a special "development projects team" within the Government to "prevent major schemes being stalled by burdensome local demands".

But campaigners criticised the recommendations and stressed that the new National Planning Policy Framework, published earlier this year, made it clear brownfield land should be developed first and the Green Belt should be protected by the authorities.

A spokesman from Protect Kent, the county's branch of Campaign to Protect Rural England, said: "Whilst the consultants who produced this report are factually correct in that those targets will be missed, they are historic targets the Government has chosen to scrap.

"They have decided that we should move to a new era of localism which will guide housebuilding.

"The reason the targets have not been met is because local authorities get to decide their own housing numbers according to local needs.

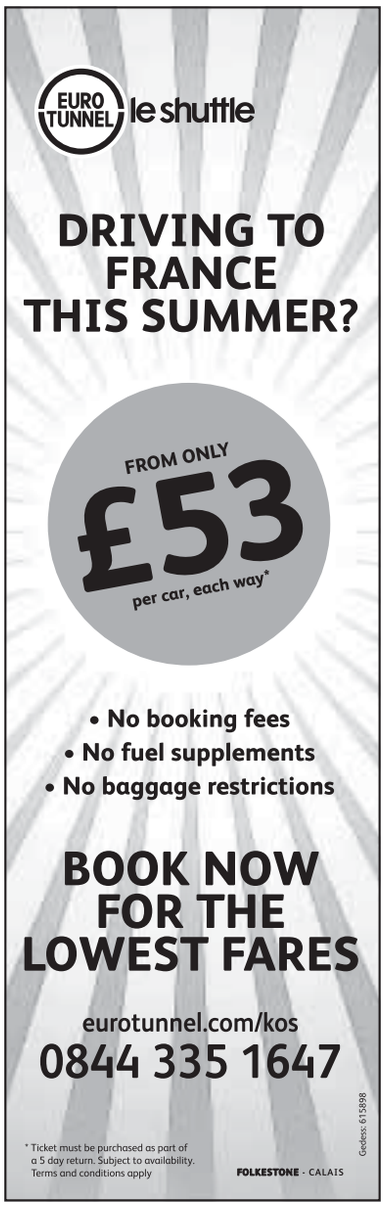
"We believe the idea put forward to release Green Belt land is disgraceful.

"We feel that in order to improve the housing situation, projects such as the No Use Empty' one in which buildings are brought back to market are far more effective at combating a housing shortage.

"We must also remember that there is land available if developers want to build houses.

"In fact, CPRE commissioned a report which found that even in the South East where housing demand is at its highest, land supply outpaced demand with one quarter of suitable brownfield plots going unused."







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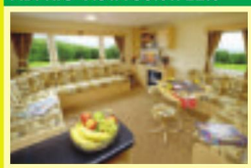


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News

EDUCATION

Tuition fee increase sees a big drop in uni applications

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

APPLICATIONS to Kent's universities have plummeted, with almost 10,000 fewer students applying for a place this year.

It follows the Government's controversial decision to allow universities to triple tuition fees from autumn 2012.

All four of the county's universities chose to do so, with the University of Kent in Canterbury, and University for the Creative Arts (UCA), which has campuses in Rochester, Canterbury and Maidstone, charging the maximum £9,000 a year.

Figures from university admissions body UCAS show a huge 29.2 per cent reduction in applications at UCA this year, a drop from 9,664 in 2011 to 6,842 in 2012.

A UCA spokesman said the university had been affected by the "disproportionate 16.9 per cent drop" in applications that all arts institutions have suffered.

This is believed to be down to the perceived lack of a stable income in the creative arts industry combined with fears of leaving university with huge debt.

The spokesman stressed UCA had also seen a 13 per cent decrease due to courses that had been discontinued.

He added: "This year, despite the decrease in applications, we still have three times the number of students applying for the 1,879 undergraduate places that we can offer and will be entering clearing to ensure all places are filled."

The University of Kent has seen a 7.4 per cent drop in applications, from 28,019 to 25,934.

Canterbury Christ Church University, a leading teacher training institution due to introduce charges of £8,500 a year, saw a 5.1 per cent drop of 887 applications. And the University of Greenwich, which has a campus in Medway and will charge £8,300, had a huge 11.6 per cent drop, amounting to 4,124 fewer applications.

But despite the major slump, UCAS said there would still be an excess of applications for available places, although "less exaggerated" than in the last two years.

UCAS chief executive Mary Curnock Cook said: "Although there has been a reduction in application rates where tuition fees have increased, there has not been a disproportionate effect on more disadvantaged groups."

She said, however, that application rates for older applicants had declined by around 15-20 per cent.

She added: "We also find no evidence of an increase in plans to study while living at home, or any significant shift towards courses with higher starting salaries on graduation."

Chief executive of Universities UK Nicola Dandridge said the fall in applications was far less dramatic than some were predicting.

But she added that as the admissions stage approaches later this summer, she would look in more detail at whether the new system has had an impact on certain groups and specific subjects.





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POLITICS

Lords could become a 'dumping ground' for failed party candidates







REBEL FORCE: Tory MPs Julian Brazier, Tracey Crouch, and Adam Holloway all voted against the bill

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

ONE of Kent's newest MPs has condemned plans to reform the House of Lords, warning it will create a "dumping ground" for party candidates who failed to get elected to the Commons.

Dartford MP Gareth Johnson was among 91 Conservative MPs to rebel against the proposals in what turned out to be the biggest revolt against the Coalition since it came into power.



FIRM STAND: Gareth Johnson

Three other Kent parliamentarians joined Mr Johnson in his rebellion during Tuesday's vote; Chatham and Aylesford MP Tracey Crouch, MP for Canterbury Julian Brazier, and Gravesham MP Adam Holloway.

Despite Tory unrest, the Coalition still won the vote on the principle of the planned reforms, which aim to introduce a mainly elected House of Lords.

It was described as a triumph by Liberal Democrat leader Nick Clegg, even though the Government opted to abandon the 'programme motion' vote which would have sped up the passage of the bill.

But Mr Johnson made an impassioned plea not to abolish the current system, and replace it with candidates who will be elected for 15 years.

"I have never defied the party line before, but the bill is fundamentally wrong," he said.

"Seven hundred years of history will be undone if we support this. I want to be able to look my children in the eye and say, 'I did not forsake the British constitution. I said no'.

"We need to be brave enough to say that the Lords works. It is not perfect, but it works.

"These proposals will ensure the Lords operates in a party political manner. Legislation will be blocked or supported for purely party political reasons, rather than simply because the Lords believe the legislation is wrong."

He said under the changes the Lords would end up as a "dumping ground" for failed party candidates.

"The wealth of expertise that exists in the Lords will go, to be replaced by people who really wanted to be members of the Commons."

But other Tories in Kent backed their party despite concerns the Lib Dems were forcing the Conservatives to back the bill by threatening "consequences" such as withdrawing support for boundary changes.

MP for Thanet South Laura Sandys said: "Restoring power to the people is at the heart of Conservatism.

"We have an unprecedented opportunity to instil democracy at the heart of our Parliament.

"In this Parliament we have already introduced legislation for elected police commissioners and have promoted city mayors. Reform is an essential component of strengthening Parliament in the face of a stronger executive.

"With greater resources and more activism in the House of Lords, both chambers will have an increased capacity to hold Government to account."

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News

HOLIDAYS

Travel agents profit as rain drives sunseekers abroad

By Chrissie Daniels
chrissie.daniels@archant.co.uk

TRAVEL agents are seeing a boom in sales as people plan their escape from the miserable weather and head for the sun.

The weeks of rain have left families desperate to holiday abroad, much to the delight of travel operators in Kent.

The surge marks a dent in the staycation trend, as people shun UK breaks and splash out on foreign getaways, despite the state of the economy leaving them with smaller budgets.

Baldwins Travel Agency, which has offices in Tunbridge Wells, Maidstone, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and Uckfield, has seen bookings abroad increase.

Business development director Nick Marks said: "Our Maidstone office is doing very well, with a triple digit percentage increase year-on-year.

"Across all our branches we have seen an increase. Late bookings will be big this year.

"We must be the only industry hoping for more rain."



ON HOLIDAY: Chasing the sun

The problems in Greece and Egypt haven't affected tourism, with the agency receiving the same amount of bookings as last year, whereas Turkey has gained in popularity.

But the situation isn't the same across all travel agents. When we spoke to Go Travel last week they only had one booking across five offices for the entire day.

A spokeswoman said: "People have very low budgets. It is a concern, but it is so up and down – we could get a rush of bookings next week."

Tony Clish, director of Park Holidays UK, said his six Kent coastal parks are "substantially up" on summer figures compared with this time last year.

He said: "I can't blame travel agents for trying to talk the market up, but the reality is that people don't make holiday decisions on the basis of whether the sky happens to be blue.

"The staycation trend is, I think, now firmly embedded – as our booking figures demonstrate. It's also interesting that we are now seeing record numbers of buyers of holiday homes on our parks.

"It's especially significant because it shows people are making a long-term commitment to holidays in Britain, which is good news for the small businesses that depend on tourism spending to survive."

Victoria Bacon, Association British Travel Agents, head of communication, said: "The UK is a beautiful country with exceptional holiday appeal, but the weather has been setting records for all the wrong reasons and it is no surprise that millions are looking to head off overseas for more reliable weather and temperatures."









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ONE-MAN BAND: Performer tunes in to the fun



BOTTOMS UP: Judge has trouble with his bulls







EVENT

County Show highlights Garden of England's role in economic recovery

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

AGRICULTURE will be key to the economic recovery, according to a government minister who was guest of honour at the Kent County Show.

Secretary of State for the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Caroline Spelman said she chose to come to the show because of family links and the fact she had lived at both Saltwood and Knockholt, near Sevenoaks.

She said: "The agricultural sector is an extremely important part of economic recovery and growth. There is an increasing demand for food and we starting to export more.

"So it is an important industry.

"Kent has the potential to be an extremely important part of the whole economy of the UK and shows such as this are an inspiration, especially to young people, as they show how important agriculture really is."

Miss Spelman donned wellington boots for a trip around the show where she said she intended to watch showjumping and speak to as many people as possible.

She also emphasised the high quality of the produce: "Kent has a great reputation when it comes to food and I've already seen some lovely cherries.

"Events like this give people the opportunity to see the very best of what Kent has to offer.

"It is also important to show the opportunities which exist for jobs in the rural sector as well as economic growth.

"Ministers each try and attend a county show and I really wanted to come to Kent. My grandparents lived in Hythe and I spent all of my holidays when I was young down there.

"I loved the shingle beach and the Romney Hythe and Dymchurch Railway.

"Then I came to live at Saltwood and raised my family in Knockholt so it's great to be back in Kent and see the very best the county has to offer."

On Friday there were fears the weather could scupper the annual Kent County Show, organised by the Kent County Agricultural Society, with the event was due to run until Sunday.

Overnight rain created muddy conditions underfoot on Friday and forced the car parks to close in the morning for public safety, with admissions restricted to pedestrians only.

The County Showground in Detling, just outside Maidstone, is the setting for a celebration of all that is best about rural life in Garden of England.

Livestock and produce are always at the heart of an event which has steadily grown in popularity, now attracting more than 80,000 visitors.

The equine and livestock judging attracts entrants and spectators from across the UK, but the event is more than just a celebration of the diversity and excellence of rural industry, according to George Jessel, chairman of the society.

He said: "We are really putting Kent on the map with this show."

Mr Jessel explained the event is a major way of showing how rural industry and farming continues to be an important part of the country's economy.

He said: "It has great value to young people. It shows that there are jobs and opportunities available in rural businesses. It's part of education – showing what the countryside can offer.

"In the past county shows started as a way for farmers to exhibit their livestock and produce but have moved way beyond that and now almost every sector is represented."

"It is also fantastic for networking. If you are a farmer, as I am, you can see the very latest developments in technology as well as find people who work in a particular specialist industry whose services you will need in the future."

The Food Tent and Produced In Kent marquees offered cakes, breads, cheeses, meats, seafood, home-made pies, jams and chutneys, chocolates and fudge, sausages, and Kent-produced crisps and ice-cream.

Drink was equally varied with fruit juices, beers, ciders, ginger beers, teas, coffees, and flavoured vodkas available.

Why Farming Matters In Kent, is an area of the show offering information about local produce, careers and training in agriculture. Visitors will also be able to see sheep-shearing demonstrations and cattle, horses and goats.

And the event also tackled serious issues; the RSPB's stand had a large banner protesting about the planned estuary airport.

Kent Young Farmers showed off a variety of livestock, such as cattle, sheep, pigs, rabbits, and poultry.

The Flower Tent is renowned for the horticultural exhibitors who demonstrate their expert growing and nurturing skills, with displays of roses, fuchsias, cacti, carnivorous plants, shrubs, and ferns.

The show's EcoVillage explains how to live a greener life, covering everything from renewable energy and cars to skin care and garden furniture.

A woodland area offers a tranquil setting where visitors can learn about rural crafts and skills, kept alive by experts keen to share their knowledge, while a visit to the Kent Beekeepers' tent offers an insight into one of the animal kingdom's busiest creatures.







SOUND INVESTMENT: Marching bands were part of Friday's opening day, but with poor weather threatened this stall could be ready to cash in on the rain

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Pictures: PAUL JERREAT



RURAL RETREAT: Thousands attended the opening day of the Kent County Show, enjoying the best the county has to offer



PICK OF THE BUNCH: Stallholder raises a toast to a busy three days



MOO-VE OVER: Livestock shows again proved popular



RACING AHEAD: Huntsman shows off his skills at Detling



TAKE-OFF: Dog displays were among the many shows thoughout the day

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News

EXHIBITION

Art show is a family affair for Bagpuss creator Firmin

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk



GENIUS: Peter Firmin and his daughters are exhibiting in Whitstable

BAGPUSS creator Peter Firmin and his artist daughters are staging a two-month exhibition of their work in Whitstable.

Firmin, who also was behind childrens' favourites Ivor the Engine and The Clangers is currently sailing on tall ships.

The 83-year-old and his collaborator Oliver Postgate founded Smallfilms, with Postgate writing and narrating and Firmin designing, building puppets and animating, at a farmhouse in Blean, near Canterbury, which is still his family home.

Daughter Emily, who appeared in the opening sequence of Bagpuss, said: "We are all artists and this is what we do."

The show is called Off the Wall because people can go along to the Horsebridge Arts and Community Centre in Whitstable and buy the works straight off the wall.

It is billed as a unique and fantastic opportunity to see the artwork of this cherished TV artist and and his family.

Emily Firmin and her partner Justin Mitchell are showing their papier-mâché artworks.

And there is also work from the other daughters Hannah – known for her book jacket illustrations for Alexander McCall Smith's The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency Series – and Charlotte and Josie Firmin.

Emily said: "I create work with my Justin. We make art, and, of course, art is to be seen.

"It is nice to have an exhibition in a local gallery.

"Whitstable is great because we live here. Charlotte is in Faversham and Josie has a shop in Canterbury and London. We all grew up in Blean."

The show runs until the end of August. The gallery is open 9am-6pm daily, and 10am-6pm on Sunday.

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News

UTILITIES

Hosepipe ban dropped, but we still need to save water

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

EVEN though the hosepipe ban has been lifted and there should be enough supplies for the rest of year, people are being urged to still think twice before turning on the tap.

At the start of the week, Kent's water companies – South East Water, Sutton and East Surrey Water, and Veolia Water Southeast – lifted restrictions imposed in April after two exceptionally dry winters.



A South East Water spokesman warned: "We could all be back to square one if we have yet another dry winter. We are confident we have water resources that will cover the rest of the year.

"We advise all our customers to still be sensible with water use. There has been a drop in demand during the rains, but demand needs to be down all the time.

"There are plenty of sensible things people can do like taking shorter showers, turning the tap off when brushing teeth, using full loads in the dishwasher and washing machines. We need to keep the water we have got and make it last."

Southern Water, which along with Thames Water had already lifted restrictions, said its reservoirs are in a healthy position with Bewl at 90 per cent.

But some underground sources are still below average.

Water quality and strategy manager Meyrick Gough said: "Although our water restrictions are no longer in place, underground sources are still being replenished and we'd like to remind customers to think about the water they use.

"We're entering the summer period when demand peaks, so we should all continue to use water wisely where we can."

And Veolia Southeast said while the unprecedented rainfall since April has lead to a significant improvement in water resources, the company is anticipating rain starting from as early as October.

Mike Pocock, water resources manager said: "We take most of our water from aquifers.

"Although the exceptional levels of recent rainfall have resulted in an unusually high top-up of groundwater for this time of year, the critical period for recharging our aquifers is between October and March, when less rainfall is lost to plant growth, evaporation and run off to rivers.

"It must be stressed that groundwater levels still remain lower than normal, so we are asking our customers to continue to use water wisely.

He added: "A third dry autumn and winter would make a hosepipe ban next year a definite possibility."

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News

HEALTH

Hollywood legend's charity to fund hospice care study

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A FOUNDATION run in the name of Hollywood legend Paul Newman is helping fund medical research in Kent.

It's called the Newman's Own Foundation and is financed from sales of the star's world famous foods, including his salad dressings. It has donated more than £230 million to thousands of charities around the world so far.



Now Pilgrims Hospices has been granted £6,500 to fund research that will help people affected by terminal lung disease.

They said the star's charity recognises the importance of its Kent-based research into ensuring people with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), receive the same consistent high quality of care as other patients.

Oscar-winner Newman (pictured) was a movie icon for his roles in films like Cool Hand Luke, The Hustler, and Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid. He died in 2008.

Dr Declan Cawley is pioneering a model of care that will significantly improve the services available to people with COPD.

This is a debilitating illness with a range of acute symptoms such as breathlessness, pain, fatigue, reduced mobility, depression and anxiety.

He said: "This development has the potential to improve the quality of life for people living with COPD as well as provide meaningful support for carers.

"If the proposed COPD model of care gains the approval of patients and carers then it has the potential to be adopted throughout the UK and beyond."

The funding was won thanks to the work of James Acton, director of The Brand Nursery.

He connected Pilgrims Hospices to the Newman foundation, and said: "My father received his end-of-life care at Pilgrims Hospices and we just wanted to try to do something meaningful and valuable for the charity.

"We work with Newman's Own in the UK and the US and we were delighted to introduce Pilgrims to funding that may have otherwise been difficult to find. It's also what my father would have done to say a big thank you."

Pilgrims Hospices has units in Canterbury, Ashford and Westgate-on-Sea.

Requiring funds of £9m a year, the hospices provide palliative care for adults with a range of illnesses that cannot be cured including cancer, heart failure, respiratory conditions and neurological diseases, and was founded in 1982.

Anyone wanting to help support Dr Cawley's work can phone Yvonne on 01843 233922.

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News

ECONOMY

One town bucking the trend of growing unemployment

JOBSEEKERS

JSA claimant numbers and change since last year: **Ashford** 1,986 (+5.5 per cent); **Canterbury**, 1,632 (+2.1 per cent); **Chatham and Aylesford** 2,897 (+10.9 per cent); **Dartford** 2,003 (-2.4 per cent); **Faversham and Mid-Kent** 1,491 (+7.3 per cent); **Folkestone and Hythe** 2,809 (+12.2 per cent); **Gillingham and Rainham** 2,460 (+4.5 per cent); **Gravesham** 2,819 (+8.1 per cent); **Maidstone and the Weald** 1,544 (+2.8 per cent); **North Thanet** 2,627 (+8.5 per cent); **Rochester and Strood** 2,525 (+8 per cent); **Sevenoaks** 1,047 (+2.4 per cent); **Sittingbourne and Sheppey** 3,054 (+16.8 per cent); **South Thanet** 3,239 (+14.7 per cent); **Tonbridge and Malling** 1,219 (+15.9 per cent); **Tunbridge Wells** 1,055 (+0.7 per cent)

By Dean Kilpatrick
dean.kilpatrick@archant.co.uk

DARTFORD is bucking the unemployment trend, with the area seeing a drop in the number of jobless people, while some parts of Kent suffer rises of almost 20 per cent.

According to figures for June, Dartford has seen a 2.4 per cent drop in those seeking jobseekers allowance compared to this time last year, while Dover saw a staggering 18.9 per cent rise in claimants of JSA, the biggest increase in the county, followed by Sittingbourne, with a 16.8 per cent rise.

The town's Tory MP Gareth Johnson said: "Dartford's employment situation has managed to buck the trend due to a number of enterprising innovations in the town centre.

"Jobseekers have also benefited from the new Glow events centre and Plaza at Bluewater shopping centre. We must never become complacent, but it is heartening that unemployment in Dartford has fallen."

More than 600 of Johnson's constituents have found employment in the last two years, and there are hopes the boost will stimulate further growth.

He added: "Recruitment partnerships such as the one run by Bluewater and North West Kent College have helped ensure young people gain the skills employers are looking for. This is a valuable investment in the future of the town."

Dartford council leader Cllr Jeremy Kite said he was hopeful the area could act as a springboard for the rest of the county's economy.

Cllr Kite said: "We have had our fair share in retail shops closing. However, we have more small businesses, and large ones too, which makes us attractive for investment. We tend to be the first area of Kent to show a boost in the economy, so I hope this is the case."

Despite the year-on-year decrease in JSA claimants, Dartford has seen an 109 per cent increase in registered unemployment in the last five years.



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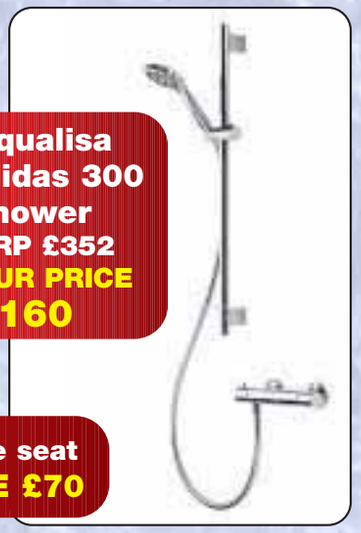
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KENT **REMEMBERED**



GRAND STATEMENT: Staircase at Chevening (below) and Beneden Primary School (above) built in 1861

Discover architectural gems of 'unique' county

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

The Pevsner series of Buildings of England books have been the cornerstone for research into this country's architecture.

Churches, public buildings, castles and random structures such as follies, schoolhouses, toll booths and railway viaducts, all came under the scrutiny of expert historian Nikolaus Pevsner, starting in the 1950s.

While researching the highways and byways of England the writer liked to be driven and usually that job fell to his wife.

But on trips to Berkshire and Hampshire, John Newman, from Tonbridge, took the wheel.

As a thank you he was given the job of compiling the companion guide to his home county – which has just been fully revised and reprinted. The updated edition is in the shops now from Yale University Press.

The classic architectural survey Kent: West and the Weald has been used by students and travellers for more than 40 years.

Now fully revised and expanded to include the great variety of buildings added to the landscape during that time, this indispensable guide offers fresh perspectives on major landmarks such as Igtham Mote, Sissinghurst, and Hever Castle.

Major themes are explored and specialist chapters from individual contributors add to the scope. Features such as church vaults, elaborate staircases and spectacularly decorated salons are also examined for their significance in design and decoration.



Kent is home to an extraordinary amount of first-rate architecture, from the timber-framed houses of the Weald and the cathedral of Rochester to the planned, modernist suburb of New Ash Green.

"Pevsner actually wrote 46 volumes in his series over 25 years," said Mr Newman.

"But he was not so keen on the Home Counties, so he let me have a go at Kent.

"He liked the countryside, not so much the big, imposing, architecture of large homes which are frequently shielded by rhododendrons. He liked a clear view of a building and although he was interested in late 19th century and early 20th century architecture he wasn't so keen on the logistical problems of finding out about them."

Mr Newman is writing a companion volume to his work covering north east and east Kent which will be available from November next year.

"Kent is unique in having two Medieval cathedrals – Rochester and Canterbury. So in writing the books I have featured Rochester in this volume and Canterbury in the other.

"Rochester may be less impressive, but it still has an enormous amount of splendour.

"Pevsner may have had a dislike of the influence of London and people who made their money and then bought country estates close to the capital, but Kent has a very good example of this in the form of Penshurst Place, built in the 1930s and very well preserved.

"Then there is the influence of the Archbishop of Canterbury who first built Knole Place."

The new edition of the book features detailed explorations of urban areas and fresh insights into popular visitor attractions, such as Igtham Mote and Hever Castle.

Smaller houses, war memorials and other local landmarks are also featured as Mr Newman, a lifelong resident of the county as well as a professional architectural historian, explored every parish in the county, using published sources and archives as well as the testimony of librarians, churchwardens, homeowners, building custodians, and teachers.

Contemporary architecture is also explored.

"The church at West Malling is very impressive," said Mr Newman. "And the new addition to Maidstone Museum is almost tongue-in-cheek, a gift wrapped parcel of a building which is extremely eye-catching."



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OPINION

A new app-roach to health care

Dr Peter Green explains how the NHS is trialling new technologies to put patients in the driving seat of managing their care, and how you can help...

'SKYPING' your GP, tracking and monitoring your blood pressure on an app or taking part in a teleconference with your healthcare team and a specialist consultant in America.

It may sound futuristic, but it's time for us to work smarter in using today's technology to make the NHS better for you.

These are just some of the cutting-edge examples we are exploring to better support and treat patients – particularly those with long-term conditions like diabetes and heart disease – around the clock.

Kent has already been at the forefront of research and use of technology in supporting patients in the community.

We were one of the pilot sites for Telehealth and Telecare.

Telehealth uses electronic equipment to monitor a patient's daily health, like their pulse, blood pressure and sugar levels, from their home before sending it to a community matron or specialist nurse.

Being able to track a patient's condition so closely not only empowers them to manage their own condition, but prevents crises and resulted in fewer emergency admissions to hospital. The Department of Health is so impressed it is now championing its use nationwide.

But we know this is just the tip of the iceberg. There is a plethora of emerging technologies that can be adopted to improve people's experience of the NHS, both for patients and clinicians. Apps have already been developed by Diabetes UK and Asthma UK to help patients in the early stages of these disease record medical information and share it with their community nurses.

Seven GP practices in east Kent are piloting the Met Office COPD Health Outlook Service with patients who have the lung condition chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, which can be aggravated by the weather. Patients get a recorded voice call when poor conditions are forecast, giving them the opportunity to take action to stay well.

We are also looking at developing IT solutions to enable health and social care teams to share information more easily.

This work is being driven by the Kent and Medway Technology Programme, which brings together clinical commissioning groups, local government, clinicians, universities, research partners and patients and the public in the search for these new technologies and how they can be used and applied to help patients.

It will involve working with a range of organisations and using smartphones, apps and the internet more widely to improve care.

One thing is for sure, if the NHS locally is to embrace the challenges of the 21st century, we must now embrace the opportunities technologies bring.



We are looking at IT solutions to enable care teams to share info more easily

Three of the best health apps are: the Diabetes UK app gives people reminders on checking blood sugar levels and taking medication – information can then be sent electronically to the patient's surgery or clinic. www.diabetes.org.uk; the iBreastCheck from Breakthrough Breast Cancer, provides women (and men too) with a guide to checking their breasts for abnormalities. www.ibreastcheck.com; the NHS Drink Tracker helps you follow how much you drink over time, analysing your habits to provide tailored feedback. www.nhs.uk/tools,

Got an idea you think would help? Then register your interest in joining the Technology Patient Group. Email technology.kentandmedway@nhs.net or call 01227 791163.

■ Dr Peter Green is a GP and co-medical director at NHS Kent and Medway.

KOS COMMENT

At last it's time to get into the Olympic spirit

YOU don't get much for free these days, so to be able to witness a once-in-a-lifetime spectacle in the form of the Olympic Torch Relay for nothing is special opportunity.

It also gives those who missed out on Games tickets the chance to soak up some Olympic spirit and feel part of London 2012.

We're also lucky enough to have the torch here longer than any other county, and with two stopover nights to enjoy it creates the sense we're considered an important county in the Olympic and Paralympic build up.

So join the crowds next week and soak up some Olympic atmosphere.

After all, this is likely to be a one-off chance for most of us.

We need a resolution

IT CAME as no surprise when the Government announced there would be a delay on the aviation debate.

People are fed up with politicians failing to show some guts by pushing ahead with a decision. Either way, a resolution needs to be found to stop people having to live their lives in limbo.



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Feedback

Letters/emails/twitter



Spitfire of Kent at Rochester Airport by Adam Tingley

IMAGES OF KENT

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Memorial is well deserved

EXCELLENT that Bomber Command is being recognised.

Among the Command's crew were a number of West Indians, admitted to the RAF once the colour bar was lifted in 1940. For example, Ivo De Souza of Jamaica became a Flight Commander. Larry Osborne of Trinidad became a Group Captain; Flight Lieutenant Ed Scobie went on to become the Mayor of Roseau (capital of Dominica) and subsequently taught at Princeton and Rutgers universities. Flight Lieutenant Cy Grant from Guyana was shot down but survived as a PoW. Flying Officer Errol Barrow of Barbados led his country into independence and became its first Prime Minister in 1966.

Marika Sherwood, Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London, Oare

Tax cash bid is just naivety

YOUR article about Kent County Council expecting monies from a foreign lorry tax (which under EU law would probably mean British hauliers too), from the Treasury, shows a certain degree of political naivety.

The only outcome of such legislation could be repercussions for British hauliers by other European nations and costs passed onto the end user.

Congestion charging and parking seems to average that two thirds of the money collected goes on administration and I guess this would be the norm here.

If any money was received, would it really be spent on road improvements? Driving time restrictions have been around for nearly 50 years and despite hundreds of billions of pounds collected in tax over that period, neither Labour nor Conservative governments have tackled the problem of truck parking. They have made the rules and made sure they are enforced, but lacked the leadership to solve the problems created.

Terry Hudson, Herne Bay

Horse needs a good clean up

RE: The White Horse at Folkestone. It would be good if it could be cleaned before the Olympics, to be a welcoming symbol of Kent to people using the Channel Tunnel. It's very dull at the moment.

Jean Coulter, by email

No Estuary Airport

The estuary is not an option

MY views for a hub airport as proposed, are summed up by Marijke Cox in last week's paper. Too costly, not wanted by a huge array of people including some in the industry, and would devistate an area of global environmental importance.

We are great at travelling all over the world 'educating' people about how to care for their environments, yet in our own tiddly little island all we can think about is airports, industry, roads et al, that supposedly bring employment. Yet there have been millions unemployed in this country for most of my 50 years of working life, and there have been too few schools, hospitals, or houses, and too many cars for the roads to cope with also for as long, or longer, despite constant shifting of the green belt and continuous building of roads, houses, etc.

This is necessary, but sacrifice something irreplaceable for consumer demand and you gain nothing long term.

I protested about the hub when it was originally going to be built at Cliffe, and I live in Gravesend, so I'm not a Nimby. Even Australia supported that protest, and the same arguments apply here.

As Joan Darwell said, it's not about houses, it's about health and well-being, and if people in power like Boris Johnson can't see that, then there is no hope for humanity. Because if we can't set a good example by looking after our own ecology, then why should the Brazilians look after the rainforest? Or farmers in Africa protect ivory horned animals from poachers, etc?

If we need more space for planes then there has to be a better way of providing for it. Go back to the drawing board and think again, because the estuary is not an option.

Julian Burrows, Gravesend

Reuse an old airport instead

I have heard all the fuss and bother about Boris Island in the Thames Estuary, and the arguments for and against.

However, there is a solution that everyone seems to have overlooked. Governments are very keen and big on new developements that provide large contracts for those in the know with high-up connections. This one is no different.

There are plenty of former World War Two bomber airfields dotted around the country in areas that would not bother too many residents if one of them were to be used again, as a central hub for the UK. As the current lot are very big on high-speed trains, an additional project could run alongside the recommisioning of an abandoned airfield as stated, to provide the necessary transport linkage to the capital and beyond.

Problem solved, all done on dry land. Simple.

Geoff Parr, by email

Develop Lydd or Manston

I say no to the idea of an estuary airport.

It is a busy shipping lane, would cause goodness knows what upheaval to the community of Grain, in particular the Hoo Peninsula.

What of the wartime wreck of the Richard Montgomery? Perched on a sand bar, still loaded with munitions from the Second World War. Experts say there is no danger, but there is no man-made disturbance yet.

I am at a loss as to why Manston or Lydd are not strongly in the frame. Both were in the past the sites of successful commercial airlines.

Manston has a huge runway (emergency landing facility) a massive land area, and cargo flies out on a regular basis. Not forgetting Kent International Airport on site. Lydd is a lovely historic airport already seeking permission to extend its runway.

The main problems, not forgetting noise (aircraft are pretty quiet nowadays), and birdlife which resites itself or endures, is the location. Both are a bit 'out of the way' of mainstream traffic. In the case of Manston a good road system exists. Rail, well take a spur off the Ramsgate line.

I suppose it's money. If there is money considered for the Estuary Mistake, use it to develop Manston or Lydd.

Dave Powell, by email

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Edited by **Adam Aiken**

Government's not after your money – for now

Q I WANTED to invest £1,000 in index-linked National Savings certificates, but according to the Post Office they are no longer sold there.

How do I apply now?

A NATIONAL Savings currently has no savings certificates on sale at all, whether index linked or fixed interest.

It also has no growth bonds, income bonds or equity bonds, and it has stopped accepting savings into its easy-access account and its investment account.

National Savings is a government agency, so when you put your money into one of its products, you are really lending your money to the Government – and, right now, the Government does not want to borrow from you so it has shut down all these schemes, at least for the moment.

Q My father passed away recently, aged 87. While in his 50s, he took out a policy with Norwich Union to cover funeral costs.

However, he paid far more in premiums than was paid out on his policy. My mother has a similar policy, and Aviva informed her that if she stopped paying premiums then the company would effectively take several hundred more pounds from her.

A Your father paid about £2,600 in premiums, and on his death Aviva, the company behind Norwich Union, paid benefits of £1,696.

Your mother has paid the same premiums and she has been told her policy will pay £1,437, though if she cancels future premiums this will drop to £1,200 – presumably because she will lose any final bonus.

It is easy to see why you think this is unfair. So-called funeral policies like these offer poor value for money. On the other hand, they have never been savings policies.

To be blunt, they are no more than a gamble. A certain percentage of people will die comparatively young, before their premiums match the benefits the insurer must pay.

Your long-lived parents' premiums have paid for the benefits to other families where the policyholder has died early. This is how all insurance works, and as long as the policy terms were spelled out properly in the beginning, Aviva has done nothing wrong.

Q I INVESTED over many years in premium bonds until I reached the maximum £15,000 allowed. I used to get a £50 prize almost every month. Now, though, I go months without a win, and I never get more than £25.



Is it true new bonds stand a better chance than old bonds? Should I cash mine in and reinvest to get new numbers?

A OLD bonds with low numbers stand exactly the same chance of a prize as new bonds with high numbers.

The reason you see recently issued bonds so often in the prize lists is that there are more of them in circulation.

Ernie – the electronic machine that generates the winning numbers – cannot tell the difference between old and new bonds, and prints out numbers completely at random.

The reason you are winning fewer prizes is simply that the Government has reduced the prize fund in line with low interest rates, and there are now far more £25 prizes. This means the number of winners stays roughly the same, but the amount they win is lower.

If you still like premium bonds, you could buy more, as the maximum allowed is now £30,000.

Q I SOLD some building land at a profit. It was originally paid for by my parents, but registered in my name.

I would now like to return the entire amount to my parents, including all the interest gained. Are there any tax implications? I have already paid capital gains tax.

A This is a bit messy. Was the land really yours, in which case the money from your parents was either a gift or a loan?

Or was the land really theirs, since they paid for it, in which case they should have paid the tax and pocketed the profits? That said, we are where we are.

You have already declared the gain for tax. It would be difficult to tell the tax office now that your parents were the real landowners, and not you.

The remaining question mark is over how much you give them.

Return the original sum and there are no tax implications. Anything above this counts as interest and should be declared for tax by them.

They cannot claim any benefit from the gains tax that you already paid.

■ **If you have a personal-finance question, write to Tony Hetherington, MyMoney24, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE. We regret that neither Tony nor the MyMoney24 team can enter into personal correspondence.**

Many could profit from £38m bumper windfall

By Adam Aiken
MyMoney24 editor

CREDIT unions are to receive up to £38 million from taxpayers to modernise and expand so they can support a million more people.

Welfare reform minister Lord Freud said the additional funds would help credit unions buy new computer systems and infrastructure so they can increase the numbers of people they help to save and borrow.

The move follows a report by the Unite union which found workers were increasingly turning to payday loans because their wages run out before the end of the month, creating what the union said was a "debt disease" across the country.

The research by Unite found that one worker in eight regularly turned to short-term loan companies such as Wonga, Quick Quid and Money Shop to tide them over in the week before getting their wages.

Payday loan companies charge notoriously high rates of interest – sometimes as much as several thousand per cent a year.

Defenders of payday loans point out that their products are used for only a few days at a time, and that the annual interest rate does not give a fair reflection of the cost of a short-term loan. But there is no doubt that credit unions are a far more competitive option for borrowers.

"Credit unions are growing – almost doubling in membership since 2006 – but we want them to be a mainstream option for savers and borrowers just as they are in other countries and to ditch the image of a 'poor man's bank'," said Lord Freud.

Mark Lyonette, chief executive of the Association of British Credit Unions, said: "Credit unions in Britain already provide financial services to nearly a million people, many on low to moderate incomes.

"But we know that credit union sectors around the world, by working together behind the scenes and offering a broad range of products, reach many more people, including – but certainly not restricted to – those at the lower end of the income scale.

"So I very much welcome the recognition from government that credit unions should be a mainstream option for saving and borrowing.

"This £38m investment will help provide the infrastructure the sector needs and assist credit unions to develop services that will benefit everyone in the communities they serve, on a sustainable footing."

Neera Sharma, assistant director of policy and research at children's charity Barnardo's, said: "It is essential that the most vulnerable families have access to feasible alternatives to exploitative high-cost credit, including fit-for-purpose bank accounts and good financial advice.

"Investing in credit unions must be at the heart of a package of government measures that ensure the poorest families are not left crippled by debt."



SO WHAT ARE CREDIT UNIONS?

AT THE end of September, 2011, Britain's credit unions were managing £703 million of savings on behalf of more than 950,000 people, and credit union members had been advanced loans totalling £570m.

But what are they – and are they safe?

Credit unions are financial co-operatives owned and controlled by their members.

Unlike banks, they do not have shareholders. They are also authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority and they are covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.

This means that – as with banks and building societies – the first £85,000 of a member's savings are completely safe in the event that a credit union fails.

Credit unions are non-profit and allow members both to save and to borrow at competitive rates.

They provide an attractive alternative to other authorised products such as payday loans and doorstep lending.

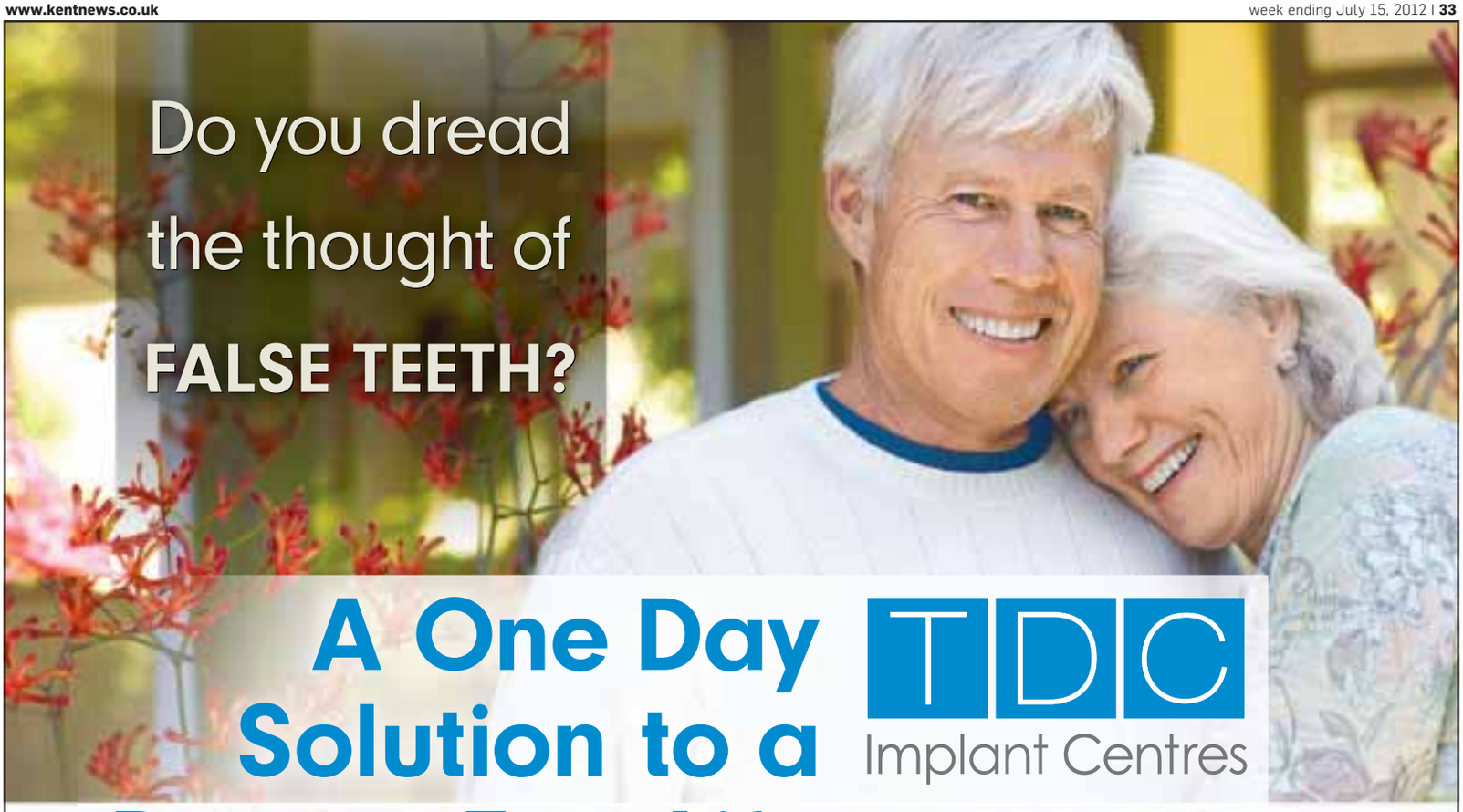
They also play a vital role for people who find themselves excluded from the mainstream banking sector, but you do not need to be struggling or down on your luck to become a member.

There may once have been a stigma attached to credit unions, but nowadays many people choose credit unions ahead of other high-street providers because the products can beat those available elsewhere. There can also a feeling of community in belonging to a credit union.

Credit unions are based around a geographic area, employment or some other common link.

For example, some unions are for people who work in a certain industry, some might be for people who go to the same church, and others are for people who live in a particular suburb.

There are about 500 credit unions across the country.



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IF you have a business story or any news you think we should be covering in this section, reporter **Nick Ames** would like to hear from you.
You can phone him on **01303 817181**, or alternatively email **nick.ames@archant.co.uk**.

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'The way these institutions have behaved is, frankly, frightening'

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

ANGER is raging across the county's business community at those bankers perceived as lining their own pockets at the expense of the economy.

Recent headlines about interest-rate-rigging, which saw Barclays fined £290 million, have once again put the spotlight on the big banks and their role in the economic downturn.

And their continuing reluctance to lend cash at affordable rates – while still paying higher-ranking staff huge bonuses – is putting any chance of a recovery at risk, says the body that represents small businesses.

"Throughout the years we have been brought up to believe the bank is a trusted friend," said Roger House, chairman of the Kent and Medway branch of the Federation of Small Businesses.

"Now the bank is viewed with doubt and mistrust. There is a great deal of anger and disbelief at the way they have handled their affairs,

"What is undeniable is they have fiddled and fiddled the figures.

"Millions of pounds has been made available to them and money that could have been used to stimulate growth in the economy has gone into bonuses.

"And one thing nobody talks about is what happens if a business obtains money and then it goes wrong. The way the banks behave is venal – they go after every penny the business has got and do not think twice about sending in the debt-collectors.

"The way these national institutions have behaved is, frankly, frightening. The economy is the bedrock of our society. People in business generate money.



ENRAGED: The FSB's Roger House

The banks may make a bit by investment, but the money is ours – it is our economy, not theirs to mess around with.

"On the one hand we have the Government saying there is a deep need for SMEs – which account for 90 per cent of the economy – but [on the other hand] business is saying things are coming to a stop. To save the whole economy, what is needed is 'affordable money' to stimulate growth. That is cash available to businesses to grow – not charged at huge rates of interest."

The FSB says it welcomed the Financial Services Agency's ruling that Interest Rate Swap Agreements (IRSAs) were mis-sold to small businesses, with the four main high-street lenders agreeing to compensate small and medium-sized firms mis-sold products.

The FSA said it had found "serious failings" in the way they marketed to some customers.

Barclays, HSBC, Lloyds Banking Group and Royal Bank of Scotland have all agreed to halt the sale of complex interest-rate hedges to smaller businesses and have pledged to compensate potentially thousands of customers who have been hurt by the products that have left some firms with hundreds of thousands and even millions in costs they say they were never warned about.

Martin Wheatley, head of financial conduct at the FSA, said he had received personal assurances from chief executives, including Barclays boss Bob Diamond when he was still in post, and Antonio Horta-Osorio, chief executive of Lloyds, that they would ensure all complaints were treated fairly.

But in addition to the moratorium imposed on the sale of these swaps, the FSB now wants an immediate suspension of repayments on these products.

And it says the FSA and the Financial Conduct Authority must also carry out a thorough market review to establish how the market should operate – if at all – for small businesses.

The FSB said regulators must also review the level of protection small firms were afforded under regulation as well as investigate how many other banks had been involved in the practice.

House said: "Suspending repayments immediately would relieve and possibly rescue small firms that have been burdened with huge bills. However, it will not resurrect the many small businesses that have already been destroyed by this appalling breach of trust – firms that turned to their banks for support and were instead exploited.

"Britain's hope of escaping recession relies largely on the optimism and entrepreneurial spirit of its small firms. But that optimism is being shattered by the ever-lengthening series of scandals emerging from the banks they have been forced to deal with through lack of competition and regulation.

"At what point will big banks' chief executives take responsibility for the litany of scandals their employees have been found guilty of and which are causing untold damage to small businesses and Britain's economy?

"It is not enough that the guilty banks should simply be forced to repay the money they tricked out of their small-business customers. The situation will not improve until and unless punitive measures are taken to stamp out these sharp practices and the fundamental attitude of the banks towards their small-business customers changes. The top managers of these huge institutions must be held accountable.

"The scale of the mis-selling scandal is still not clear. Too many affected firms have still not come forward and live in fear that if they speak out their loans will be foreclosed and their banks will force them out of businesses. This FSA ruling should give them the confidence to step forward – and they must do so.

"A company operating hotels in Folkestone and Canterbury bought two IRSAs from Barclays Capital in 2007-08. Since the BASE rates fell below 3.25 per cent they have been penalised with these IRSAs and have been paying a 'kicker rate', which currently amounts to more than £700,000."

• To hear more from Roger House, visit yourkenttv on youtube.

LEISURE AND TOURISM

Year of discovery is on the App

FIFTY tourism businesses came to Chiddingstone Castle to meet the Discover The Garden Of England team, which is celebrating its first year with the launch of a free iPhone App.

This is intended to make it easier for visitors to find out everything they need to know about what's happening in Kent and parts of East Sussex.

The group also has a website with information on accommodation, venues to visit, activities, shopping and places to eat.

Visitors to the website are increasing by an average of more than 30 per cent month on month, and with a 12-month search-optimisation and Google adwords campaign already under way,



the site's creators hope visitor numbers will continue to rise strongly.

"The website has a full calendar of events, as well as themed itineraries, an itinerary builder, accommodation booking, mapping and the What's Nearby function, which links places to visit and stay with events and activities, making it easy for visitors to plan a day," said director Juliet Steinmetz.

RECOGNITION

This woman is an inspiration

CATHY Beare, group chief financial officer of Newington-based Holiday Extras, has joined the Women 1st Top 100 Club.



This is made up of the most influential women in the hospitality, passenger transport, travel and tourism industry.

Announced at the Women 1st Shine Awards, Beare joined Carolyn McCall OBE, chief executive of easyJet and Women 1st Woman of the Year; Kellie Rixon, group brand-development director at De Vere Group; and Janis Kong OBE, a non-executive director for TUI, VisitBritain and Network Rail.

She said: "It's a great honour to join these fantastic women who are achieving remarkable things in their careers and for their businesses. I'm very proud to be seen as a positive role model for the next generation of industry leaders."

Sharon Glancy, founder of Women 1st, said: "The quality of the nominations we received this year was remarkable. Each and every one was an inspiration – it was a tough task to make our final selection.

"The extraordinary women in our Top 100 are a critical force who will play no small role in ensuring the future success of the industry."

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Minister explains Green Deal on visit to heating company

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk



HOT STUFF: From left, Mark Pope, of Swale Heating, with Gregory Barker and Gordon Henderson

THE Green Deal, the Government's new flagship carbon-emission-reduction policy, will bring huge benefits to households and businesses while providing a much-needed financial shot in the arm for companies that get involved in the initiative, a senior minister claims.

Gregory Barker MP, Minister for Climate Change, addressed a green-energy summit at the offices of Swale Heating in Sittingbourne to put the case for the initiative.

Responding to an invitation by Sittingbourne and Sheppey MP Gordon Henderson, the minister explained to an audience of private- and public-sector delegates how the Green Deal would work when it came into force later this year.

Barker said that under the Green Deal bill-payers would be able to get energy-efficiency improvements without having to front up the cash. Instead, firms who become approved providers under the scheme would provide the capital, getting their money back via the energy bill. At the heart of the offer is a simple rule – that estimated savings on bills will always equal or exceed the cost of the work.

"Every property considered under the Green Deal will be assessed by an accredited, objective adviser, and the energy-efficiency measures installed by an accredited installer. The scheme will provide a substantial opportunity for companies here in Kent and elsewhere to tap into a huge potential market.

"Millions of residential and commercial properties could benefit from the energy-efficient savings these improvements could bring – measures like cavity wall and loft insulation, solid wall insulation, double-glazed windows and new doors, solar pv panels, energy-saving heating controls and lighting systems, A-rated boilers and more.

"Within the next few weeks I will be issuing advice to councils to draw up a strategy to roll out the Green Deal in their areas," said Barker, who acknowledged that a big job lay ahead in explaining the scheme to the public and other target audiences.

Responding to questions about small to medium-sized regional firms being squeezed out of the scheme by national home-improvement suppliers, the minister said he expected "an army of SMEs" to get involved and urged local authorities in Kent to help manage this.

He also denied a claim that the Green Deal would be a 'flash in the pan' initiative that fizzled out in six months: "This is a 20-year programme. We will not have a big flashy launch with a huge advertising budget. It will be rolled out in a controlled and steady way, based on partnerships between Government and local councils and groups," he said.

Swale Heating managing director Mark Pope said the company was keen to put its weight behind the scheme: "Ahead of this meeting we understood the ethos of the Green Deal, but it was unclear how it would be delivered. Now it is clear there are opportunities for independent heating-services companies like ours to be involved and we look forward to finding out more about becoming an accredited provider."

Henderson said: "One of the reasons I invited the minister is because some of our smaller companies here in Kent have concerns about being excluded from the Green Deal.

"There has also been the worry that households will postpone decisions on home improvements like new windows until the Green Deal is introduced later this year, leading to work drying up for the next few months."

PAYMENT

Phone device to help ensure you are paid on time

SMALL businesses suffering from late payments and bad debt could benefit from a new payment system that will enable companies of all sizes to accept credit and debit card payments through their mobile phone.

mPowa is a service that includes a mobile-phone app and a reader that connects to a smartphone or mobile device either by plugging into its headphone socket or via Bluetooth.

It enables customers to make payments on the go using their card in a way never before seen in Britain.

The mobile app is free to download on iPhone, iPad, Android, Windows and Blackberry devices and functions as the control centre that accepts the payment.

It monitors payments made by card as well as cash and cheque, as well as processing each transaction securely.

The reader, when connected to a mobile phone, is used to swipe the magnetic strip of the card, or for the chip and pin device, and the card is then inserted and the customer prompted to enter their PIN code.

mPowa will enable businesses, including sole traders, to take payments immediately without waiting for invoices to be issued and paid.

The device is launched as many businesses are struggling to survive because of bad debt. In the UK, £35.5 billion of debt is owed to SMEs alone.

In the second half of last year, small and medium-sized firms reported waiting an average of 29.6 days longer than agreed payment terms, which is a figure that represents an increase over the first half of 2011.

Because many firms are currently unable to accept card payments due to the cost of devices, mPowa will function as a way of shortening the payment process from what can be months to a matter of minutes.

Chamber's annual event ensures a wealth of networking as businesses get together

KENT Invicta Chamber of Commerce's 26th annual exhibition proved a great hit at Ashford International Hotel.

Rebranded the Kent & Medway B2B to reflect the chamber's new wider geographical area, it was supported by businesses from across the county.

Longer opening hours, a shell system of stands with a revised layout, presentations by keynote business speakers, a special start-up section, speed networking and an Entrepreneur Panel were some of the innovations for this year.

Together with more than 130 exhibitors, more than 1,000 visitors and the established facilities of business advice and workshops, Kent & Medway B2B 2012 was the place to discover the best in products and services, find new contacts, get advice on how to improve business efficiency, or learn how to develop an idea to start up your own business.



DELIGHT: Richard Farleigh and Jo James were pleased with the event

The presentations by business speakers Richard Farleigh and Paula Wynne were well attended and much appreciated, as were all the other business-advice opportunities. Richard Farleigh also helped choose and present the Best Stand awards.

A constant flow of visitors, coupled with interaction between the exhibitors themselves, provided many positive leads and contacts for potential cooperation and expansion, with exhibitors reporting substantial prospects arising from exhibition attendance.

Many commented on the value of the exhibition in raising their profile among the wider business community and the opportunity to meet other business people with whom they would not normally come into contact.

Chamber chief executive Jo James said: "We always strive to improve our exhibition as much as we are able to increase the benefits it provides.

"This year we deliberately set out to give it a whole new look, with a fresh approach with enhanced facilities and attractions.

"I believe, judging by the comments I have heard from exhibitors and visitors, that we accomplished what we set out to do – I hope so.

"As with all these events, the day was a culmination of a lot of work and effort by many people. I extend thanks to all of them, too numerous to name.

"Specifically, however, I would like to thank Wilkins Kennedy, Furley Page, and Jelf Insurance Brokers as main event sponsors; Auratek Ltd for sponsorship of the Start-Up area and the Best Stand awards; our excellent speakers and presenters; and all our other sponsors for their help."



Training, courses and careers

College courses at a great price

NORTH West Kent College offers a range of Higher Education (HE) courses at half the cost of university. From £4,995, students can gain a foundation degree qualification or Higher National Diploma/Certificate and improve their chances of employability while living at home.

The Dartford campus, from where most of the courses will be delivered, offers free parking and is accessible by easy transport links via rail, bus and the college's free shuttle bus.

The college provides foundation degrees affiliated to The University of Greenwich and Higher National Diplomas/Certificates (HND/C) by Edexcel.

These qualifications involve links to industry, and after two years students have the opportunity to apply to top up their qualification to a degree or go straight into industry. It is also possible to work while studying on several of the HE programmes.

The HE courses include business, early years, photography, professional writing, sports science and sports studies. The college is also introducing new HE courses from September in performing arts, travel and tourism and public services. In addition, the college offers a part-time HNC in electronic and electrical engineering at the Gravesend campus.

Brian Starbuck, curriculum manager for higher education, said: "We understand the rising cost of tuition fees is making it difficult for people to go to university. We are confident that by offering higher-education courses at a lower cost, it will make it easier for potential students to achieve this."

The business HND develops the knowledge and skills appropriate to administrative and management careers in many areas of business. Elements of the course include quantitative techniques, economics and business functions.

The early years foundation degree provides the opportunity to progress into teaching or management, with a potential progression to an early years professional status course. The course will benefit students by developing confidence for the workplace, problem-solving and project management.

Photography is ideal for people with a passion for the art who have a desire to make a living from their images. The programme covers studio and location photography, portraiture, digital post-production, advertising and editorial photography, plus critical and contextual studies.

Professional writing focuses on turning creative ideas into revenue. The course has generated an effective stepping-stone for students to progress to becoming published authors or moving into creative industries such as press and advertising.

Sports science is based on the science behind sports performance, which underpins the theory and practical elements of a range of subjects including practical sports performance, fitness training, sports psychology, health and anatomy. The course is ideal for students who wish to pursue careers such as fitness coach, personal trainer, sports nutritionist and sports psychologist.

Sports studies provides students with an insight into the world of sports coaching and the sports industry. The course covers practical performance, coaching, anatomy and sports-event organisation. It aims to produce physical-education teachers, coaches, sports development officers and leisure centre staff.

The Miskin Theatre's performing-arts course will benefit actors and technicians, providing them with the relevant training and experience to prepare them for drama school or to start work directly within the industry.

Public services addresses a range of areas from justice and punishment to psychology. The course would be an advantage to students who wish to progress in a career in the police, fire service or Armed Forces.

Travel and tourism covers subjects from marketing to visitor-attraction management. The course is ideal for those who would like to boost their prospects in the travel and tourism industry.

Places on these courses will be sought after, so please get in touch while they remain available. Call North West Kent College on 0800 074 1447 or www.nwkcollege.ac.uk.

Town hall's up for Euro award for scheme to get people back into work

A COUNCIL initiative to help get people back into employment has been shortlisted for an award celebrating Europe's most innovative projects.

The Medway Council-led project SUCCES (Sustainable Uplifting Client Centred Employment Support), which is designed to give unemployed people the help they need to get back into work, has been nominated to compete in the annual Regiostars awards, run by the European Commission.

The Regiostars Award identify good practice in regional development and highlights original and innovative projects that could be inspiring to other areas.

SUCCES is part funded by the European Union's Interreg IVA 2 Seas programme and provides training and specialist support services to people over the age of 16 either looking for work or with a low skills set and little experience.

This can be anything from help writing CVs and interview techniques to self-esteem courses and networkingevents with employers.

The cross-border initiative is running in Medway, Great Yarmouth and Waveney, Grand-Synthe in France and Kortrijk, Belgium.

In Medway, the project is led by the council and involves the work of a range of community groups and services, including the Employ Medway Advice Centre, All Saints Community Project, Strood Community Project, Medway Citizens Advice Bureau, and the North Kent Training Service.

Tayler Bennett, 22, from Chatham, had been unemployed for nearly a year when he was helped by the SUCCES project. He is now a finance apprentice at Medway Council.

"The SUCCES project has given me the confidence and self-belief that I needed to not just secure employment, but start a career.

"I found the self-esteem course in particular was invaluable, and I would recommend it to anyone" said Tayler.

The project has been shortlisted along with two other Medway Council-led projects, AIMER and ACCES, and selected as final nominees for the Regiostars competition.

Medway Council's Cllr Jane Chitty, said: "It's great to see the work of the SUCCES project and the team behind it being recognised for the valuable work they are doing."

Finalists will be invited to present their project to a jury in October and the final competition winners will be announced in February 2013.

What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good news story email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or call us on 01303 817136.



JUST THE JOB: Medway Council's SUCCES scheme could be in line for European glory

Bursary to teach computer teachers

THE University of Kent has been awarded a £1,000 BCS education bursary to promote the importance of computer science as an academic discipline.

Dr Bill Mitchell, director of the BCS Academy of Computing, said: "It is with great pleasure that the Institute makes the bursary awards. We had over 200 applications for bursary funding so to be awarded one is no mean feat.

"We are now looking forward to following the progress of each of the successful projects and sharing their experience to inspire others."

The university's computing education research group will use the bursary to subsidise its summer schools and evening classes for computing teachers. The first event will be a summer school in August for 30 computing teachers, aimed at those who are starting to teach Key Stage 4 or 5.

The evening course will allow local schools to forge links with the university to begin to establish a support network for local teachers.

The presenters at the events will include Professor Sally Fincher, recipient of the Association for Computing Machinery award for outstanding contribution to computer science education, and Professor Michael Kölling, named a distinguished member of the ACM in recognition of his contributions to computer science education.

Neil Brown, research associate, explained: "We are very pleased to have secured a BCS education bursary.

"This is an exciting time for computing in schools, fuelled by the introduction of the new wave of computing GCSEs.

"But we need to make sure teachers in the schools are prepared to teach computing, and in many cases this means access to continuing professional development and training.

"We hope that our summer school and evening classes will provide opportunities for teachers, both locally and nationally, to increase their skills and gain confidence in the material that they will teach."

Schools & education

Teen goalie signs for Arsenal and swaps school for training ground

SCHOOLBOY goalkeeper Ryan Huddart has swapped school for the Arsenal Academy after it snapped him up for its young Gunners training programme.

The 6ft 3in goalie been signed up into a full-time role at the academy in Shenley where he will continue his studies.

Ryan, 15, said a fond farewell to students and staff at The Charles Dickens School in Broadstairs which has allowed him to leave a year earlier at the end of Year 10.

Headteacher Andrew Olsson said: "We may have another young England keeper in the mould of Joe Hart – we certainly would not stand in his way and we have worked with Arsenal to ensure his education continues."

Sports master Gary McClellan said: "Youth development is run by Arsenal's former Ireland international midfielder Liam Brady. He knows just about all there is to know about the game. His passion is obvious and a young sportsman like Ryan could not be in a better place."



SAFE PAIR OF HANDS: Liam Brady with goalie Ryan Huddart

Students get union trophy for debate on improving transport

MIDKENT College Students' Union has won an award from the National Union of Students for its efforts in improving local transport.

Last March the SU hosted a travel debate to enable students to air their grievances in public, resulting in bus company Arriva launching several new services to the Medway Campus.

The project had already earned the union second place in the House of Commons Speaker's School Council Awards, but there was further success for the students when they won Campaign of the Year at the annual NUS Awards.

Former SU president James Phillips, who chaired the travel debate, said: "We are really pleased the student voice at MidKent College is being listened to by Arriva, and the hard work of our volunteers has been recognised by the National Union of Students.

"We are thankful to all of those who have supported us in this process. For me personally this was a fantastic way to end my term as Students' Union president."

Topics covered at the travel debate included the scrapping of the Education Maintenance Allowance, the rising cost of public transport and problems with existing student travel schemes.

Medway councillors Vince Maple, Andrew Mackness and Geoff Juby participated in the event, as did Gillingham MP Rehman Chishti and representatives of train company Southeastern.



WINNERS: Former SU president James Phillips (right) with his successor Matt Stanley

Young science star wins month-long study trip to famous Israeli institute

A SEVENOAKS schoolgirl has been named as one of 10 top science students from around the UK who have been awarded scholarships to attend a month-long programme at the prestigious Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel.

Catherine Xu from Sevenoaks School will spend three weeks working with Weizmann Institute scientists on current research in biology, biochemistry, chemistry, physics, or mathematics and computer science.

Their time at the institute will be followed by a week of travelling around Israel.

The participants were picked from more than 30 applicants. After a lengthy application process, their passion for science showed these students to be the perfect candidates to join 80 other future scientists from around the world.

Applications for the 2013 programme open in October, 2012, and forms will be available from www.weizmann.org.uk.

Weizmann UK – formerly known as the Weizmann Institute Foundation – was established in the UK in 1950 as part of the global network of 17 countries, which stimulate support for the awareness of the Weizmann Institute, its research programmes, scientists and development projects.

The Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel, is one of the world's top-ranking multidisciplinary research institutions.



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- Warehousing and Logistics

Horizon Care is an energetic, progressive and one of the most innovative providers of young people's residential care in the UK, and provides the highest level of care by the use of the best resources available.

We have a number of positions available within our residential homes in Deal, Margate and Ramsgate and are looking for the right, enthusiastic people to join Horizon Care and move forward with us in our future plans.

Senior Residential Care Workers:
(Mandatory requirement: NVQ Level 3 Health and Social Care (children) or equivalent)
Should have at least 2 years experience of working with or caring for young people (10-16 years old) in small group residential settings. There will be opportunities for the right people to be involved in the continuing development of the homes standards and provisions of services. Successful candidates will be highly motivated to develop and maintain relationships with young people and their families and engage with local agencies and community.

- Direct work with the residents including keyworking and generally taking an active part in their daily lives.
- Contact and dialogue with Social Services personnel and outside agencies who have an involvement in the project or interest in its residents.
- Taking responsibility for the welfare of the home with regard to health and safety and primary care issues, as well as making autonomous decisions about individual residents requests and behaviour whilst on shift.

Residential Care Workers - qualified and unqualified:
Working as part of a close-knit team within one of our residential homes, you will assist in the everyday and personal care, education and treatment of young people.

We are looking for motivated and committed individuals, with a calm approach. Experience of working with children and young people or in residential care is desirable but not essential as personality and ability are important factors and all training will be provided to suitable applicants. You must be able to work as a team member, on your own initiative and to high standards. Good interpersonal and communication skills are essential.

For all of the above positions the following criteria apply:

- must hold a full UK driving licence
- be over the age of 21
- successful applicants are required to provide an enhanced disclosure and satisfactory references. Disclosure expense will be met by employer.
- Must be prepared to work shifts (including sleepovers) on a rota basis

In the first instance please forward your full cv via email to: jean.ingham@horizoncare.co.uk
Horizon Care incorporates LCS Limited.

Raymond Beer & Co

CONVEYANCING SECRETARY/ASSISTANT

Experienced assistant required by Chatham Property Lawyers. This appointment is initially temporary to cover for maternity leave but is expected to lead to a permanent position being offered.

Excellent salary and prospects for successful applicant.

Send CV to info@raymondbeer.co.uk

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applecroft

Applications welcomed from Registered General Nurses and Registered Mental Health Nurses for full and part time posts (internal rotation) at Applecroft Nursing Home in River, Dover CT17 0ER
Applicants must have experience in Dementia Care/EMI.
Rates of pay based upon experience and qualifications.
Please contact **01304 821331**
or email **sam.weir@abbeyhealthcare.org.uk**
for an application form and enquries.

Sub_Distributor opportunity
BookPeople
Do you know anyone that is interested in becoming a distributor for the Book People? Working on a self employed basis, with existing distributors on an established customer base.
Anticipated first year earnings – 20-25K with scope to increase.
To apply, email details to **BookPeopleMaidstone@yahoo.co.uk** or call **07738 055319**
(own transit sized vehicle required).

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NVQ Level 3 or BTEC
Full or part-time position
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Tel: 01227 768418

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PUBLIC/ COMMUNITY APPOINT

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Human Resources Advisor
(Fixed term contract for one year) ***Ref: TSN17***

Salary: £30,062 - £37,253 (dependent on qualifications and experience)
37 hours per week
Medway Campus

We are looking to recruit a Human Resources Advisor who will help deliver our operational commitment on a number of projects.

You will provide comprehensive Human Resources (HR) advice and guidance to the Campus Senior Leadership Team, Managers and staff and actively participate in development of employment policies. In addition, you will lead on staff consultation processes, people planning and change management processes. As an HR generalist you will engage with our stakeholders to enhance and support the delivery of key HR projects, therefore knowledge and experience of pay evaluations schemes would be advantageous.

The ideal candidate for this role will be CIPD qualified and have experience of working in unionised environments. The person will have a track record delivering professional HR advice and support and be able to demonstrate that they have the knowledge and experience to improve the performance of the HR function.

For an informal discussion please contact Ian Johnston, Head of Human Resources on 01634 383601.

Closing date: Thursday 19 July 2012 at 12 noon

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer

MidKent College



THANET COLLEGE

RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancies available:

WORK PLACE INFORMATION ADVICE AND GUIDANCE BROKER
FIXED TERM FOR ONE YEAR

Responsible for Employer Engagement, Guidance and Work Place Learning Brokerage.

The role attracts a salary scale of £22,289 - £26,408 per annum plus a contributory pension scheme, 26 days holiday and a comprehensive range of staff benefits.

Interview date: 8th August 2012

ASSISTANT FINANCIAL ACCOUNTANT

Responsible for the supervision of the Finance Assistants and the nominal ledger and balance sheet.

The role attracts a fixed point salary of £23,040 per annum plus a contributory pension scheme, 25 days holiday and a comprehensive range of staff benefits.

ASSISTANT MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANT/PAYROLL

To prepare the College monthly accounts and other ad-hoc reports as required. To administrate and process the College payroll, including production of annual returns for pensions and PAYE.

The role attracts a fixed point salary of £20,246 per annum plus a contributory pension scheme, 25 days holiday and a comprehensive range of staff benefits.

PROCUREMENT OFFICER

Ensure adherence to purchasing policies, to maximise value for money and to realise savings and benefits available to the College from purchasing activities.

The role attracts a fixed point salary of £20,246 per annum plus a contributory pension scheme, 25 days holiday and a comprehensive range of staff benefits.

Interview Date: Wednesday 1st August 2012

For further information about us and an application form please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk or if you require assistance please telephone our application line an (01843) 605052.

Closing date: Wednesday 25th July 2012

THANET COLLEGE

Visit our website at www.thanet.ac.uk

Carers' Support Dover District & Thanet

Supporting those who care for a relative or friend

Post:
2 x Additional Carer Support Workers

Starting salary £17,574 per annum
37.5 hrs per week
One year fixed term (possibility to extend subject to longer-term funding)

The organisation provides support, advice and information to people over the age of 18 who care (unpaid) for a relative or friend; we are partly funded by Social Services and The Primary Care Trust.

Carer Support Worker: We are looking for a confident, versatile, sensitive and articulate person who will work with us to support Carers and to develop and deliver new services across the locality. Your main role will be to provide support and information to Carers on the phone or to those calling in at our Carers' Centre. You will also liaise with other agencies, make and take referrals, facilitate, develop and deliver outreach services and events.

This position is mainly office based, however you will be required to travel outside the office to attend meetings, complete one to one Carer's Assessments in clients' homes, to deliver outreach services and represent the organisation at external events. A full driving licence and your own transport are essential.

For an application pack, please write to:
Tricia Cole CEO
Carers' Support - Dover District & Thanet
80 Middle Street, Deal, Kent CT14 6HL
or email: **tricia@carers-doverdistrict.org**
Closing date: **For returned applications by Monday 6th August 2012**

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SOUND TRAINING FOR READING

are recruiting

SUPPLY TEACHERS

to deliver our innovative reading programme in primary and secondary schools in East Kent. Candidates will be fully qualified teachers with excellent all-round communication skills and the motivation to engage successfully with pupils. We will provide training, teaching resources, school contracts and a competitive daily rate. All candidates must hold a valid UK driving licence.

To apply, please send CV and covering letter to **jobs@soundtraining.co.uk or visit www.soundtraining.co.uk/recruitment for more information.** Closing date 20 July, 2012.

KENT DEFENCE

CASE WORKER

Expanding firm of criminal defence lawyers seek a case worker to help in the preparation of Magistrates Court cases at our Margate Office.

Previous experience preferred.

Please send your CV and covering letter to
Sarah Sutherland, 170 Northdown Road, Cliftonville, Kent, CT9 2QT
or via email **sarahs@kentdefence.co.uk**

Closing date 17th August. *No agencies please.*

To place your notice here, call the Kent Public Notice team on

01303 817044

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

A Level Lecturer — *Ref: P0441*
30 hours per week

Salary: £26,336 - £30,118 pro rata (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Medway Campus

We are looking for an enthusiastic and energetic teacher to join our A levels and Access team. The successful candidate will teach on Level 2 and Level 3 programmes across a range of subjects including Government & Politics and History. The applicant will hold a relevant degree and have or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Student Financial Support Advisor — *Ref: P0256*
Part-time, 18.5 hours per week

Salary: £15,891 - £17,050 pro rata (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Medway/Maidstone Campus

We are looking to recruit an excellent candidate to provide friendly and approachable assistance to students throughout the College. The successful candidate will process applications to the student support funds, administer the resulting awards and communicate the outcomes to students and college departments via telephone, email and post. The ideal candidate will have proven experience within a customer service environment and a Level 2 qualification in business admin or equivalent.

Recruitment Assistant — *Ref: P0028*

Salary: £15,891 - £19,464 per annum (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Full time, based at Medway campus but part-time at Maidstone campus

The College is looking to recruit an exceptional individual to assist and support in the operation of the Job Shop services, developing strong links with local employers to establish employment opportunities for students. The successful candidate will provide generalist advice to teaching and support staff in line with the College and departmental procedures and assist in the day to day running of the Job Shop, a front line customer service role. Experience within a sales or marketing role is desirable.

Lecturer in Motor Vehicle — *Ref: P0605*

Salary: £26,336 - £30,118 per annum (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Full time, Medway

We are looking for an energetic, enthusiastic and forward-thinking individual who has both the industrial knowledge and experience of working within the FE sector to deliver Motor Vehicle in the new training facilities at our Medway Campus. The post will require an effective team player who is innovative and flexible to respond to the demands of the curriculum. You will have at least a Level 3 qualification or equivalent in Automotive Engineering and a relevant teaching qualification or have a willingness to undertake a formal teaching qualification to the required national standards. Level 2 English and Mathematics qualifications are essential as is a commitment to student success. Recent experience of teaching young people from Entry 3 to Level 2 would be an advantage.

Technician/Instructor in Motor Vehicle — *Ref: P0604*

Salary: £15,891 - £19,464 per annum (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Full-time, Medway

We are looking to appoint an enthusiastic and experienced technician to support the curriculum and workshop activities within the new Motor Vehicle facilities at our Medway campus. As well as a relevant vocational qualification you will have an Assessors Award, Health and Safety qualification and First Aid qualification or willingness to work towards these. This exciting post requires effective planning and organisational skills and the ability to work flexibly and reliably with minimum supervision.

Hourly paid Lecturer in Art and Design — *Ref: SESS*

Hourly Rate: £23.44 - £24.30 (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Maidstone Campus

The College is seeking an outstanding candidate to deliver Level 2 and 3 courses across a wide range of Art subjects, including print making. The successful candidate must have a degree in Art and Design, and experience in teaching, holding or willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification. We are looking for an interactive team member with strong communication skills.

Quality Coordinator — *Ref: P0607*

Salary: £24,842 - £31,516 pro rata (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Part-time, 14.8 hours per week

We are seeking to appoint a Quality Co-ordinator to be responsible for the quality assurance of off-site vocational provision delivered by the College and its partner organisations. Reporting to the Assistant Principal - Standards and Quality Improvement, you will make an important contribution to the monitoring and development of the College's quality improvement procedures and initiatives in a variety of settings away from the College's main sites in Medway and Maidstone. You will have a thorough understanding of the assessment processes of vocational provision.

Closing date: 12 noon Thursday 26 July 2012

For an application pack and further details visit www.midkent.ac.uk or e mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk.
Alternatively you may contact Human Resources on 01634 383102.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

MidKent College

PUBLIC/ COMMUNITY APPOINT



THANET COLLEGE
RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancies available:

STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND EQUALITY OFFICER

We are looking for an exceptional individual who will coordinate and lead staff development and equality activities and initiatives within the organisation. You will have experience of researching and delivering innovative and effective staff development solutions combined with a good working knowledge of equality legislation.

The role attracts a fixed point salary of £31,984 per annum plus a contributory pension scheme, 36 days holiday and a comprehensive range of staff benefits.

Interview Date: Monday 30th July 2012

COMMERCIAL CATERING CHEF

To support and develop all catering commercial operations of the College, providing excellent customer service and value for money.

The role attracts a fixed point salary of £24,000 per annum plus a contributory pension scheme, 26 days holiday and a comprehensive range of staff benefits.

Interview Date: Monday 6th August 2012

For further information about us and an application form please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk or if you require assistance please telephone our application line an (01843) 605052.

Closing date: Wednesday 18th July 2012

Promoting Equality
Preventing Discrimination

THANET COLLEGE

Visit our website at www.thanet.ac.uk

spencer private hospital

The Spencer Private Hospital is the independently owned and managed 22 bed private hospital situated on the QEQM Hospital site. We also have a 4 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff:

Staff Nurse Outpatients (Margate)

Part-time position available 20 hrs per week
Specialist interest in Bariatric nursing desirable
Qualifications
Registered Nurse 1st Level
Evidence of continual professional development
To discuss this opportunity or to arrange an informal visit please contact:-
Carolyn Flegg - Senior Staff Nurse on 01843 234555 Ext: 63425

Staff Nurse Outpatients (Ashford)

Part-time position available 20 hrs per week
Qualifications
Registered Nurse 1st Level
Evidence of continual professional development
To discuss this opportunity or to arrange an informal visit please contact:-
Mary Guarnieri – Matron on 01843 234252

Staff Nurse (Margate)

Full or Part-time position available
Qualifications
Registered Nurse 1st Level
Evidence of continual professional development
To discuss this opportunity or to arrange an informal visit please contact
Mary Guarnieri – Matron on 01843 234252

Closing date for all applications - 27th July 2012

For job description and application form please contact:-

Jo Edwards, East Kent Medical Services Ltd
Spencer Private Hospital, Ramsgate Road
Margate, Kent CT9 4BG
Telephone: 01843 234556 Fax: 01843 296333
E-mail: jo.edwards@thespencerwing.com

The Spencer Private Hospital is an equal opportunity employer
These positions are subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check

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LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

ASHFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2011/12

Each year the Council's Accounts are audited and any person interested has the opportunity to inspect and make copies of the accounts and all books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers and receipts related to them. For the year ended 31st March 2012 these documents will be available on application to the Finance Manager at the Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford (01233 330540) between 9am and 4.30pm, weekdays from 11th July 2012 to 8th August 2012. Local Government electors for the Council's area and their representatives also have:

(1) the right to question the Auditor about the Accounts.

(2) the right to attend before the Auditor and make objections to the Accounts on any items in them. Written notice of an objection must first be send to the Auditor. The audit is being carried out by Mr Andy Mack, District Auditor, Audit Commission c/o 4th Floor, "B" Block, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQand will be conducted under the provisions of the Audit Commission Act 1998 and the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003.

The auditor can be contacted at the above address from Thursday 9th August 2012 until the audit is completed.

MARRIAGE LICENCES

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Chartwell, Mapleton Road, Westerham**

Applicant: **Beverley Hunt**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Cath Anley
Head of Libraries, Registration and Archives
Kent History and Library Centre
James Whatman Way
Maidstone, ME14 1LQ

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **The Marquis at Alkham, Alkham Valley Road, Alkham**

Applicant: **Ben Walton**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Cath Anley
Head of Libraries, Registration and Archives
Kent History and Library Centre
James Whatman Way
Maidstone, ME14 1LQ

PREMISES/ GOODS LICENCES

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for a new Premises Licence

We, Lower Lines Park Trust hereby give notice that we have made an application to the Medway Council for grant of a premises licence to permit the following licensable activities;

1. The provision of regulated entertainment

In respect of the moated area and central plateau at Lower Lines Park situated at Medway Road, Gillingham, Kent ME7 1FN and known as Lower Lines Park.

The application can be viewed at the offices of the Licensing Unit, Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 4TR during normal office hours (website address www.medway.gov.uk).

Any person wishing to make representation concerning this application should do so in writing to the above local authority and within 28 consecutive days of the submission of the application, that is no later than 2nd August 2012.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence.is £5,000.

Stephen Thomas LAW
8 Grassmere,
Leybourne,
West Malling
Kent. ME19 5QP

Authorised Agents for and on behalf of the applicants.

PLANNING

Public Notice

8 July 2012

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Local Government Act 1972 – Section 123(2A) (as inserted by the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980)

Proposed disposals of land or interests in land at the following addresses, which are designated as public open spaces

Canterbury City Council hereby give notice of their intention to dispose of interests in land designated as public open spaces, as set out below:

100 square metres of land adjacent to the south-east corner of the car park in Victoria Recreation Ground, Canterbury

24 square metres of land adjacent to 35 Thistle Drive in Church Lane, Seasalter

3 square metres of land north-west of the entrance to Reculver Caravan Park, east of Reculver Lane, Herne Bay

3.053 hectares of land north of the junction of Hampton Avenue with Western Esplanade at Hampton Pier, Herne Bay

1170 linear metres of land along Rhodaus Town, Pin Hill, west of Rheims Way and south of Queens Avenue, Canterbury (KPSN cable trench route south and south-west of the city)

5 square metres of land adjacent to the former Wincheap public conveniences, Canterbury

1.765 hectares of land at Burton Down recreation ground, Thundersland Road, Herne Bay

Plans showing these areas may be inspected at the Council Offices, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW between the hours of 8.30am and 5pm Mondays to Fridays and at the council's divisional office at William Street, Herne Bay between the hours of 8.45am and 4.45pm Mondays to Fridays.

Anyone wishing to make objections to the proposed disposals, should make them in writing, stating the disposal objected to, to Tricia Marshall, Director of Resources, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW so as to arrive not later than Monday 6 August 2012.

Colin Carmichael
Chief Executive
Canterbury City Council
Military Road
Canterbury CT1 1YW

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Swale BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.
4. The application would affect a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) applies.
6. This application may be of wider public interest.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 30 JULY 2012

SW/12/0647:
Change of use of part of A1 farm shop to A3 cafe and A5 hot food takeaway, with restrictive hours and change of use of farm shop storage area to A1 retail. Provision of timber deck/terrace - Bredgar Farm Shop, The Street, BREDGAR; **REASON 1 & 2**

SW/12/0685:
Mixed development comprising a total of 53 dwellings made up of 30 no. two, three and four bedroom dwellings and 23 no. one and two bedroom flats along with provision of a Health Centre, Commercial Unit and associated roads, services and landscaping - Area R3 & R5, The Meads, Jacinth Drive, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASON 3**

SW/12/0809:
Erection of a new agricultural building to house livestock - Ham Farm, Ham Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 2**

SW/12/0818 &SW/12/0819:
Removal of existing conservatory and erection of garden room and storm porch - Church Farm House, Church Hill, HERNHILL; **REASON 1 & 2**

SW/12/0826:
Demolition of part single storey rear projection and two storey rear extension - Whitings Cottage, THROWLEY; **REASON 1**

SW/12/0832:
Change of use of agricultural land to a mixed agricultural/equestrian use. Construction of stabling, tack room and fodder store. Construction of an all weather ménage - Land at Broomfield Barn, Uplees Road, OARE; **REASON 4**

SW/12/0851:
Use as house in multiple occupation for up to 16 farm workers - Sandhole Bungalow, Kemsdale Road, HERNHILL; **REASON 6**

SW/12/0855:
Proposed removal and replacement of existing storage and maintenance barn with larger existing storage and maintenance barn with logs sawing and wood storage - Simel House, Mintching Wood Lane, MILSTEAD; **REASONS 3 & 4**

SW/12/0867:
Four bedroom detached house with associated parking - Land adj to 157 Peregrine Drive, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASON 4**

SW/12/0869 & SW/12/0870:
Conversion of loft area and installing 4 new dormers - Oak Manor, High Oak Hill, NEWINGTON; **REASON 1**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

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To place your notice here call the Kent Public Notice team on

01303 817044

Planning applications

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA//12/00822/FUL: 34 St Peters Street, Canterbury, CT1 2BG Installation of new shop front, rear extension and alterations to the roof to facilitate new sandwich/coffee bar. **Applicant: Mr Tekagac** Reason: Setting listed building in conservation area.
CA//12/00823/LB: 34 St Peters Street, Canterbury, CT1 2BG Installation of new shop front, rear extension and alterations to rear roof and internal alterations. **Applicant: Mr Tekagac** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/00925/FUL: 35 Albert Street, Whitstable, CT5 1HS Demolition of flat roof extension and erection of replacement single-storey extension. **Applicant: Mr Bean** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00970/FUL: Rodney House, 10-16 Wincheap, Canterbury, CT1 3BE Installation of air-conditioning unit. **Applicant: Mr Healey** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//12/00971/LB: Rodney House, 10-16 Wincheap, Canterbury, CT1 3BE Installation of air-conditioning unit and internal alterations. **Applicant: Mr Healey** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/01108/FUL: Herne Bay Court, Canterbury Road, Herne Bay, CT6 5TD Formation of new access linked with closure of the existing accesses. (Renewal of permission CA/09/00019/FUL). **Applicant: Centre Ministries** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01117/FUL: St Edmunds School, St Thomas Hill, Canterbury, CT2 8HU Five dormer windows on the south west slope of the north east wing to the old school. **Applicant: Ms J Black** Reason: Affects the setting of a listed building.
CA//12/01118/TPO: 4 Mill Hamlet, Mill Close, Wickhambreaux, CT3 1RF Crown reduction of Silver Birch T1 of TPO No 1 of 1980. **Applicant: Mr Bolton** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01125/ADV: Prezzo, 3 High Street, Whitstable, CT5 1AP Internally illuminated panel over main entrance, two externally illuminated projecting signs, two internally illuminated menu cases and four planters with non-illuminated lettering/logos. (Retrospective application). **Applicant: Prezzo** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01131/FUL: 15 Elizabeth Court, 189 Old Dover Road, Canterbury, CT1 3BZ Repositioning of dormer and insertion of four rooflights on north west elevation. **Applicant: Mr C Bray** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01163/LB: St Edmunds School, St Thomas Hill, Canterbury, CT2 8HU Five dormer windows on the south west slope of the north east wing to the old school. **Applicant: Ms J Black** Reason: Work to a listed building.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to **development.management@canterbury.gov.uk** to arrive on or before **Monday 6 August 2012.**

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc**

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 13 July 2012

PLANNING

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/12/0551/S - LAND REAR OF LADY JANE PUB, CHURCH GREEN, MARDEN, KENT - An outline application with only access and scale to be considered at this stage for the erection of 8 cottages with occupation limited to over 55 years old. Creation of 3 additional parking spaces to provide 9 car spaces in total. **Reason: 2**

MA/12/0678/S - OLD SCHOOL HALL, LOWER ROAD, EAST FARLEIGH, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0JL - Change of use of first floor to residential, installation of internal doorways, stud walls and mezzanine floors, installation of roof lights and creation of first floor balcony. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/0679/S - OLD SCHOOL HALL, LOWER ROAD, EAST FARLEIGH, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0JL - An application for listed building consent for the change of use of first floor to residential, installation of internal doorways, stud walls and mezzanine floors and installation of roof lights. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/1042/S - 3, NEW INN COTTAGES, FORGE LANE, EAST FARLEIGH, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0HN - Replacement rear dormer window and installation of roof window to front. **Reason: 2**

MA/12/1073/S - HILLSIDE, HAYLE PLACE, CRIPPLE STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6DW - Application for conservation area consent to demolish conservatory. **Reason: 4**

MA/12/1081/N - KENT MUSIC SCHOOL, ASTLEY HOUSE, HASTINGS ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 7SG - Variation of condition 6 of approval of reserved matters MA/11/1202 to substitute drawing no. 14386PA/3200revC4 for the previous plan 2143-02revD to allow for revised external surface materials to the access road. (MA/11/1202: Application for approval of reserved matters of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to outline planning permission MA/10/0594 seeking approval for the erection of 25 two, three and four bedroom dwellings with associated parking and access roads). **Reason: 6**

MA/12/1098/S - BEULTSIDE, LEES ROAD, YALDING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6HB - Rear extension and alterations. **Reason: 2**

MA/12/1107/S - BEALE FARM, GOUDHURST ROAD, MARDEN, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 9LT - Installation of a new packaged sewage treatment plant to replace existing septic tank. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/1141/S - THE GRANARY, GRANARY FIELDS, COLLIER STREET, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 9RR - Two storey rear extension with associated parking and creation of a new access involving demolition of piggery building. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/1155/S - HAYLE COTTAGE, HAYLE PLACE, CRIPPLE STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6DW - Application for listed building consent for the erection of a two storey side extension , insertion of new pitched roof to flat roof, lantern and parapet to roof of conservatory , erection of railings and new porch canopy to front and alterations to fenestration. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/1170/N - 3, ABBEY COURT COTTAGES, BOARLEY LANE, SANDLING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 3BU - Single-storey rear extension. **Reason: 1**

Reasons for advertisement key:
1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
4 - Application is for Conservation Area Consent.
6 - Application is Major Development.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **15th July 2012**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 29th July 2012

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

12/01668/HOUSE **Castle Hill Cottage Crook Road, Brenchley**
- Demolition of garage, erection of garden shed, relocation of oil tank (LB)

12/01839/LBC **The Schools At Somerhill Somerhill, Cape**
I- Listed Building Consent: Dismantle and reconstruct bridge over sunken lane (LB)

12/01815/FUL **Sissinghurst Primary School The Street, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Partial demolition of redundant school buildings, change of use and conversion of former primary school to 3 residential units and community use hall and erection of 4 x 3 bed houses and 2 x 2 bed houses (CA) (LB)

12/01585/FUL **Trinity Theatre & Arts Association Church Road, Culverden**
- Installation of two 1.2m satellite dishes on the clocktower (CA) (LB)

12/01586/LBC **Trinity Theatre & Arts Association Church Road, Culverden**
- Listed Building Consent: Installation of two 1.2m satellite dishes on the clocktower (LB)

12/01859/HOUSE **Gable Cottage Rogers Rough Road, Goudhurst**
- Conversion of garage to living accommodation, front porch and rear conservatory (CA)

12/01893/FULMJ **1 - 11 Highgate Mews Hawkhurst, Hawkhurst**
- Removal of Condition 6 of TW/05/00472 - (Construction of semi-detached, detached, terraced and flats. Conversion and extension of Leonards to flats) relating to re-location of retaining wall and construction of footway (MAJOR) (CA)

12/01841/LBC **The Lindens Rectory Park Road, Horsmonden**
- Listed Building Consent: To retain removal of damp concrete floors and reconstruction in concrete to contain damp proof membrane; removal of 3 No breeze block walls in kitchen; install new boiler; replacement of 3 No windows to North elevation; boarding over lath and plaster wall in bathroom and rearrangement of bathroom to include shower already carried out (LB)

12/01743/HOUSE **Pittsgate Oast Goudhurst Road, Lamberhurst**
- Two storey side extension and single storey rear extension (LB)

12/01824/FUL **Troika International 14B Chapel Place, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Change of use and conversion of first and second floor premises from offices to residential accommodation providing 1 x 2 bedroom flat and 2 x 1 bedroom flats (CA) (LB)

12/01903/LBC **25 High Street Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Listed Building Consent: alter layout of the property by adding removable studwork to create separate rooms. Remove and re-locate a staircase from the ground floor to the first floor, and re-instate the stairwell and staircase from the basement floor to the ground floor (LB)

12/01882/FUL **34 Camden Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park**
- Replacement shop front (CA)

12/01898/FUL **Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Calverley Terrace, Park**
- Change of use of council property office to an ambulance community response post (CA) (LB)

12/01757/HOUSE **The Malt House Queen Street, Sandhurst**
- Garden room, internal alterations to first floor bathroom and staircase, replacement window to first floor bedroom to east elevation and velux window to south elevation (LB)

12/01759/LBC **The Malt House Queen Street, Sandhurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Garden room, internal alterations to first floor bathroom and staircase, replacement window to first floor bedroom to east elevation and velux window to south elevation (LB)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS
Dated: 14 July 2012

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y11/0994/SH - Cage Farm Stowting Hill Stowting Ashford Kent - Erection of a detached annexe building, following demolition of existing outbuilding.

Y11/0995/SH* - Cage Farm Stowting Hill Stowting Ashford Kent - Listed building consent for demolition of existing curtilage outbuilding.

Y12/0593/SH+ - Hythe Lawn Tennis Club Twiss Road Hythe Kent - Construction of an extension to the existing car park area, together with associated landscaping works.

Y12/0583/SH# - 24 High Street New Romney Kent TN28 8BY - Listed Building Consent for replacement window to front elevation first floor.

Y12/0605/SH# - 1 Skinner Road Lydd Romney Marsh Kent TN29 9DD - Felling of a Sycamore tree subject of Tree Preservation Order No. 3 of 2012.

Y12/0606/SH+ - The Field Rectory Lane Saltwood Hythe Kent - Works to trees situated within a conservation area comprising of :- the felling of a Cherry tree followed by the planting of a replacement tree, reduction in height by 0.3m and reshape of a Holly and reduction in height by 1.7m and spread by 1m of two Oak trees.

Y12/0607/SH+ - Flat 1 The Field Rectory Lane Saltwood Hythe - Felling of a Whitebeam tree followed by the planting of a replacement tree, together with the reduction in height of a Maple tree by 1 metre, all situated within a conservation area.

Y12/0556/SH# - Ground Floor Business Premises 1 High Street Lydd Romney Marsh Kent - yChange of use of part of ground floor from a shop (Class A1) to residential use (Class C3).

Y12/0608/SH# - Links Cottage Madeira Road Littlestone New Romney Kent - Felling of an Oak tree situated within a conservation area.

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

\# - The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

\+ - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

KCC/MA/0199/2012 - Proposed development at St Augustine Academy, Oakwood Park, Maidstone, Kent, ME16 8AE.

KCC Property & Infrastructure is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for the reorganisation of the main academy campus to include demolition of the east block and erection of a new two storey teaching building, retention of the west block, general teaching block and general purpose hall, provision of a new, two court, floodlit multi use games area, 59 car parking spaces, 56 cycle parking spaces, 6 motor cycle parking spaces and 1 mini bus parking space and provision of associated hard and soft landscaping. Creation of a new surfaced car parking area on academy land to the north of the main campus to provide 28 car parking spaces with associated hard and soft landscaping.

You may view this application at Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6JQ.

KCC/SW/0178/2012 - Proposed development at Unit 17, Ridham Dock, Iwade, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME9 8SR

Countrystyle Recycling Ltd is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for change of use from wood storage building to wood shredding and wood storage in external yard.

You may view this application at Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT.

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the Borough Council website.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning
Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 15 July 2012

Canterbury City Council

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Canterbury City Council will be held at The Guildhall, Westgate, Canterbury at 7pm on Thursday 19 July 2012.

Colin Carmichael
Chief Executive
Canterbury City Council
Military Road
Canterbury CT1 1YW

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PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER
HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(PUBLIC FOOTPATH KH555A (PART) CHART SUTTON)
PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP
AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2012

On 04 July 2012 the Kent County Council confirmed the above Order under section 119 of the Highways Act 1980. The effect of the Order as confirmed is to divert the entire width of that length of Public Footpath numbered KH555a which commences at NGR TQ 7916 4937 (Point A) on the Order Plan, and runs in an east south-easterly direction for 136 metres to NGR TQ 7929 4933 (Point B) and to provide a new length of Public Footpath numbered KH555a with a width of 2.0 metres which commences at NGR TQ 7916 4937 (Point A) on the Order Plan, and runs in an east north-easterly direction for 144 metres to NGR TQ 7929 4943 (Point C).

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and the Order Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge during normal office hours at the offices of Maidstone Borough Council, The Gateway, King Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6JQ or at the Countryside Access Service at Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX. A copy of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

The Order comes into force on 1 August 2012, but if a person aggrieved by the Order wants to question the validity, or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the Highways Act 1980, as amended, or on the ground that any requirement of the Act, as amended, or of any regulation made under the Act which has not been complied with in relation to the Order, he or she may under Paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by Paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from the 15 July 2012, make an application to the High Court.

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF SWALE

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO
TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZSX39
IN THE PARISH OF SHEERNESS

(PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZSX39, SHEERNESS)

(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1),
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY
RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Public Footpath ZSX39 between Granville Road and Millennium Way from the 6th July 2012.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that work will start immediately and should take no more than 5 days.

The path is to be closed because works are planned on or near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via Granville Road and Rose Street to Millennium Way

For detailed enquiries please contact: Michael Ellis

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO
TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZR88

IN THE PARISH OF IWADE

PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZR88, IWADE

(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1),
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY
RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpath ZR88 (Saxon Shore Way) between NGR TQ 894 708 just south of Codds Creek and NGR TQ 895 706, a distance of approximately 150 metres from the 1st August 2012.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen after 2 months.

The path is to be closed because works are planned on or near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is adjacent to the path and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Michael Ellis

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER
HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZR193 (PART) TONGE)
PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP
AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2011

On 27 June 2012 an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs confirmed the above Order.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to divert the entire width of that length of Public Footpath numbered ZR193 which commences at NGR TQ 9356 6311 (Point A) on the Order Plan, and runs in a northerly direction for 68 metres to NGR TQ 9355 6318 (Point B), and then in a west north-westerly direction for 148 metres to join with Hempstead Lane at NGR TQ 9341 6323 (Point C) and will provide a new length of Public Footpath numbered ZR193 with a width of 2 metres which commences at NGR 9356 6311 (Point A) on the Order Plan, and runs in a generally west north- westerly direction for approximately 180 metres to join with Hempstead Lane at NGR TQ 9339 6316 (Point D).

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and the Order Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge during normal office hours at the offices of Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT or at the Countryside Access Service at Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX. A copy of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

The Order comes into force on 25 July 2012, but if a person aggrieved by the Order wants to question the validity, or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the Highways Act 1980, as amended, or on the ground that any requirement of the Act, as amended, or of any regulation made under the Act which has not been complied with in relation to the Order, he or she may under Paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by Paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from the 15 July 2012, make an application to the High Court.

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO
TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZR194
IN THE PARISH OF TONGE

(PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZR194, TONGE)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1),
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY
RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpath ZR194 between Panteny Lane and Dully Road, Tonge from the 30th July 2012.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen after 2 months.

The path is to be closed because works are planned on or near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Michael Ellis

PROW - DISTRICT OF THANET

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 SECTION 257
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(PUBLIC FOOTPATH TR34 AT NEWINGTON, RAMSGATE)
PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINTIVE MAP AND
STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2012

On 3 July 2012 the Kent County Council confirmed the above Order under Section 257 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990.

The effect of the Order will be to divert the entire width of that length of Public Footpath TR34, which commences at NGR TR 3675 6632 (point A on the Order plan) and runs in an east-north-easterly direction for 33 metres to its connection with Newington Road at NGR TR 3678 6633 (point B), and will add a new length of public footpath numbered TR34 with a width of 1.8 metres, which commences at the aforementioned point A and runs in an east-south-easterly direction for 33 metres to its connection with Newington Road at NGR TR 3678 6631 (point C).

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and Order Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at The Gateway Plus, Thanet District Council, Thanet Highway Unit, Council Offices, P.O. Box 9, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent, CT9 1XZ or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX (Tel: 01622 696871), during office hours. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

The Order comes into force on the date on which the Kent County Council certify that the terms of Article 2 of the Order have been complied with, but if a person aggrieved by the Order wants to question its validity, or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the above Act, or on the ground that any requirement of the Act, or of any regulation made under the Act has not been complied with in relation to confirmation of the Order, he or she may apply to the High Court for any of these purposes under Section 287 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 within six weeks of the date on which Notice is first published as required by paragraph (7) (8) of Schedule 14 to that Act.

PROW - IN THE BOROUGHS OF TONBRIDGE & MALLING & GRAVESHAM & MEDWAY UNITARY AUTHORITY

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(BYWAYS OPEN TO ALL TRAFFIC (BOATS) MR45A,
SNODLAND AND NS245 & NS221, LUDDESDOWN)
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) EXPERIMENTAL ORDER 2012

THE MEDWAY COUNCIL

(BYWAY OPEN TO ALL TRAFFIC (BOAT) RS221 &
CHAPEL LANE (PART) HALLING)
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) EXPERIMENTAL ORDER 2012
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE is hereby given that The Kent County Council and Medway Council in exercise of their powers under Section 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 have made Experimental Orders the effect of which will be to prohibit vehicle access to BOATs MR45A, Snodland and NS245 & NS221 Luddesdown, BOAT RS221 and Chapel Lane (part) Halling for the purposes of preventing damage to the highways, preserving the character of the highways and protecting and enhancing the amenity of the area.

Exemptions are provided in the Orders in relation to:-

1. enabling work to be carried out on or adjacent to the BOATs;
2. use by the emergency services and by any local authority or water authority.
3. use by owners of premises adjacent to, or which are only accessed via, the BOATs.
4. non-motorised vehicles, excluding horse drawn carriages.
5. parties who on application have been issued with a permit to access BOATs .

The Experimental Orders will come into operation on the 23 July 2012 and will operate for a period not exceeding 18 months. The Kent County Council and Medway Council will consider whether the provisions of the experimental orders should be continued in force indefinitely and if on deciding that the experiment has been successful a further notice shall be published announcing the making of permanent Traffic Regulation Orders.

Documents giving more detailed particulars including a copy of the Orders, explanatory statements and a map showing the extent of the restrictions may be inspected during normal office hours at The Kent County Council Offices, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX, at Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council Offices, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, Kent, ME19 4LZ, Gravesham Borough Council Offices, Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 1AU and Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4TR.

Anyone wishing to support or object to the proposals in relation to Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATs) MR45A, Snodland and NS245 & NS221, Luddesdown may do so in writing quoting the name of the Order and Reference No. CAS/GDR/12/BWG5&6 to Graham Rusling, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX stating their reasons, within six months of the Order coming into force, or if that Order is varied or modified within six months of that date.

Anyone wishing to support or object to the proposals in relation to Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT) RS221 and Chapel Lane (part) Halling may do so in writing quoting the name of the Order and Reference No. [Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT) RS221 & Chapel Lane (part) Halling) (Prohibition Of Driving) Experimental Order 2012] to Medway Council, Regeneration, Community and Culture, Civic Headquarters, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4TR, stating their reasons, within six months of the Order coming into force, or if that Order is varied or modified within six months of that date.

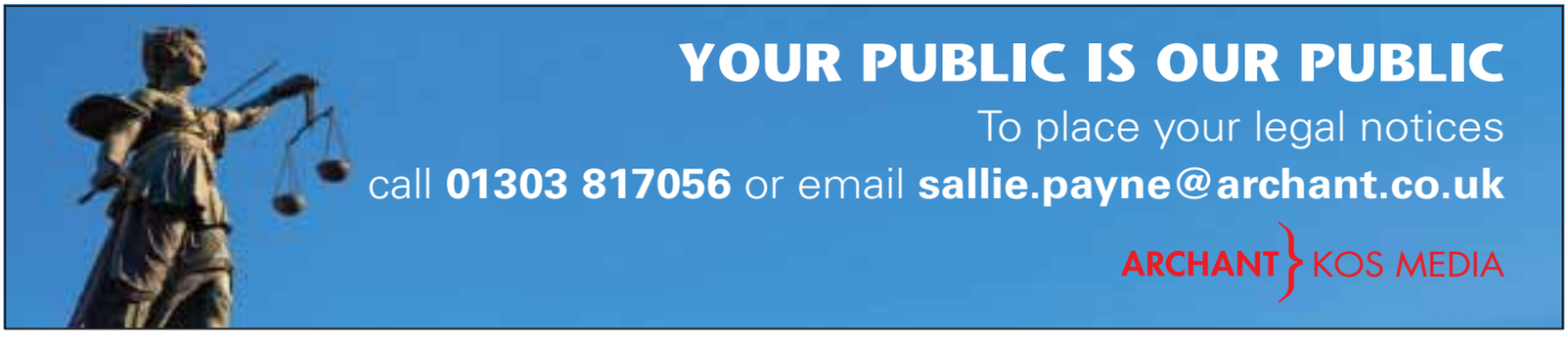
Anyone wishing to question the validity of the Orders or any of their provisions on the grounds that it or they are not within the powers conferred by the Act, or that any requirement of the Act or of any instrument made under the Act has not been complied with may, within six weeks from the date on which the order was made, apply to the High Court for that purpose.

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX **Dated: 15th July 2012**

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact
Kent Countryside Access Service,
on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

Kent County Council



OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY

OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY, KENT
(TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
(AS AMENDED BY THE LONDON OLYMPIC GAMES AND PARALYMPIC GAMES ACT 2006)

To facilitate the holding of the Olympic Torch Relay through Kent, and in the interests of road safety, Kent County Council has made an Order placing restrictions on traffic, as defined below.

This Order comes into force on or after 16 July 2012 and will be in force when indicated by signage, and/or as directed by a uniformed Police Officer.

The main effects of the Order are to prohibit traffic on the roads and adjoining junctions of roads which form part of the Olympic Torch Relay Route.

Closures will be on a rolling basis, starting with the first vehicle of the torch activation convoy, and ending once the flame convoy has passed through.

It is anticipated that closures will normally last no longer than 30 minutes.

For operational or security reasons, additional restrictions may be imposed or minor variations made by Kent Police, in the interests of safety to the torch and to the public.

Because of the nature of the closures, it is not practical to recommend alternative routes and motorists are advised to plan their journeys in advance to minimise the impact of the torch relay on their journey.

The Olympic Torch Route can be viewed on www.london2012.com/torch-relay/route. Closures are listed here on a day by day basis, in the order they are due to occur, with approximate timings.

Some are also some additional restrictions and road closures which are described as and where they occur, within the Schedule below.

TUESDAY 17TH JULY 2012

TUNBRIDGE WELLS AREA

Estimated arrival time 11.20am

SPELDHURST

A264 Ashurst Hill, Ashurst Road and A264 Langton Road

TUNBRIDGE WELLS

A264 Langton Road, A264 Bishops Down, A264 Mount Ephraim, A26 Grosvenor Road, A26 Upper Grosvenor Road, A26 Meadow Road, A26 Goods Station Road, A26 Mount Pleasant Road, B2023 High Street, A26 London Road, The Pantiles, Linden Park Road and

A26 Eridge Road

Additional Road Closure

High Street, Tunbridge Wells will be closed for its entire length from 8.00 am until 12.30 pm.

Estimated time of leaving Tunbridge Wells area, midday

WEDNESDAY 18TH JULY 2012

ASHFORD AREA

Estimated arrival time 10.30am

HAMSTREET

Marsh Road, The Street and Ashford Road

ASHFORD

A2042 Bad Munstereifel Road, Romney Marsh Road Roundabout, Malcolm Sargent Road, Wotton Road, Kingsnorth Road, B2229/A2042 Beaver Road, A292 Elwick Road, Bank Street, High Street, A2042 North Street, A292 Wellesley Road, A292 Mace Lane, A292 Hythe Road, Mabledon Avenue, Essella Road, A292 Hythe Road, Willesborough, A20 Willesborough Interchange, Hythe Road, Mersham and A20 Hythe Road, Smeeth

Estimated time of leaving 12.40pm

Additional Road Closure

A292 Elwick Road, Ashford will be closed from 9.30 am until 12.30 pm, or until crowds have dispersed, whichever is sooner.

The closure is between the junctions with Apsley Street and Elwick Road.

There will be a suspension of the No Right Turn Traffic Order in respect of Apsley Street, at its junction with Elwick Road.

The alternative routes are

Eastbound via A292 West Street, Forge Lane, New Street to roundabout and return, Somerset Road, Wellesley Road and Station Road

Westbound via A2042 Station Road, Wellesley Road, A292 Somerset Road, Forge Lane and A292 West Street

SHEPWAY AREA

Estimated arrival time 1.00 pm

SELLINDGE / STANFORD / NEWINGREEN

A20 Ashford Road, A20 Barrow Hill and A20 Ashford Road

A261 Hythe Road, Lympne; A261 London Road, Saltwood

HYTHE

A259 Military Road, Rampart Road, Prospect Road, East Street, Seabrook Road, Sandgate Esplanade and Sandgate High Street

FOLKESTONE

A259 Sandgate Hill, Sandgate Road, Church Street, Rendezvous Street, Bayle Street, The Old High Street, West Terrace, Road of Remembrance, Lower Sandgate Road, Harbour Street, A260 Tontine Street, A2033 Dover Road, A260 Hill Road, A259 Churchill Avenue and A259 Castle Hill Bridge

Estimated time of leaving 2.40pm

DOVER AREA

Estimated time of arrival 6.00pm

DOVER

Prince of Wales Pier, Esplanade, Union Street, A20 Snargate Street, A256 York Street, A256 Priory Road, B2245 Ladywell, A256 Maison Dieu Road, A258 Castle Hill Road, Constables Road, Castle Street, Market Square, King Street and Bench Street.

The Torch will reach the evening celebration at approximately 7.15pm

Additional Closures and Restrictions

Market Square, Dover will remain closed for up to an hour after crowds have dispersed, to allow the safe dispersal of spectators.

Cambridge Road, Dover will be closed for its entire length from 18 July at midday through until Thursday 19 July at 2.00 am

Russell Street, Dover will be closed for its entire length from 18 July at 7.00 pm through until Thursday 19 July at 2.00 am

40 Mph Speed Limit

A258 Deal Road, Guston - there will be a temporary 40 mph speed limit from a point 50 metres south of Jubilee Way roundabout to a point 400 metres south of the entrance to Broadlees Farm, from 18 July at 10.30 am through until Thurs 19th July at 2.00 am, as signed on site.

THURSDAY 19TH JULY 2012

DOVER AREA

Estimated start time 8.25 am

DEAL

Beach Street, King Street, High Street, South Street, Sondes Road, A258 Prince of Wales terrace, A258 Deal Castle Road, Gilford Rd, Park Avenue, A258 London Road, Deal /Sholden, A258 Sholden / Hacklinge / Worth and A258 Deal Road, Worth / Sandwich

SANDWICH

New Street, Cattle Market, Harnet Street, Strand Street, High Street, A256 Ramsgate Road

Estimated time of leaving 9.30 am

THANET AREA

Estimated time of arrival 9.45 am

RAMSGATE

Sandwich Road, Ramsgate (Cliffsend), A299/A255 Canterbury Road East, B2054 London Road, B2054 Grange Road, B2054 St Augustine's Road, B2054 Paragon, B2054 Royal Parade, Harbour Street, King Street, A255 Hereson Road

BROADSTAIRS & ST PETER'S

A255 Ramsgate Road, A255 Queen's Road, A255/B2052 High Street, A255 The Broadway, B2053 St Peter's Park Road, Albion Road, Beacon Road, Westover Road and Northdown Hill

MARGATE

B2053 Green Lane, B2051/B2052 Northdown Park Road, B2051 Queen Elizabeth Avenue, Northdown Road, B2055 Trinity Square, Trinity Hill, Hawley Street, Cecil Street, Hawley Square, Churchfields Place, Mill Lane, A255 High Street, Market Street, B2051 The Parade, The Rendezvous, B2051 Marine Drive, A28 Marine Terrace and A28 Canterbury Road.

The torch then follows the A28 from Margate through Westgate on Sea as far as Canterbury Road, Sarre, and A28 Island Road, Sarre

Estimated time of leaving Thanet area 3.00 pm

CANTERBURY AREA

Estimated time of arrival into Canterbury area 3.00 pm

Continuing along the A28 through Upsteet, Hersden, Sturry and Fordwich into Canterbury

CANTERBURY

Northgate, Borough, Palace Street, Sun Street, The Precincts, Buttermarket, Mercery Lane, St Margaret's Street, Castle Street, A28 Tourtel Road, Military Road, Broad Street, Lower Bridge Street, Upper Bridge Street, Rhodaus Town, Pin Hill, Wincheap Green, Wincheap and Thanington Road

Estimated time of leaving 4.40 pm

SWALE AREA

Estimated time of arrival 4.50 pm

A2 London Road, Graveney with Goodnestone

FAVERSHAM

A2 Canterbury Road, B2040 Love Lane, Whitstable Road, East Street, B2041 Newton Road, Preston Street, A251 Station Road, Forbes Road, The Mall, A2 London Road and A251 Ashford Road, Faversham / Sheldwich / Baddlesmere.

Estimated time of leaving 5.40 pm

Additional Closures and Restrictions

The following roads in Faversham will be closed between 2.00 pm and 7.00 pm.

Court Street - from the junction with Crescent Road to the junction with Market Place

Market Place - from the junction with Court Street to the junction with Market Street

Market Street - from the junction with Market Place to the junction with Preston Street/East Street

East Street - from the junction with Preston Street/Market Street to the junction with Newton Road/Crescent Road

Preston Street - from the junction with East Street/Market Street to the junction with Station Road/Forbes Road

Stone Street - from the junction with Bank Street to the junction with Preston Street

ASHFORD AREA

Estimated arrival time 5.50 pm

A252 Faversham Road, Challock, A252 Canterbury Road, Challock/ Charing, Charing Hill, A20 Maidstone Road, A20 Ashford Road

Estimated time of leaving Ashford Area 6.00 pm

MAIDSTONE AREA

Estimated arrival time 6.20 pm

A20 Ashford Road, Lenham / Harrietsham / Broomfield And Kingswood / Hollingbourne; Broomfield Road, Broomfield And Kingswood

The Torch will reach the evening celebration at approximately 6.45 pm

FRIDAY 20TH JULY 2012

MAIDSTONE AREA

Estimated start time 6.35 am

MAIDSTONE

Moat Avenue, Moat Road, A249 Wat Tyler Way, A20 King Street, High Street, A229 Bishop's Way, Broadway, A229 Mill Street, Fairmeadow, James Whatman Way, A229 Royal Engineers' Road, Chatham Road and Bluebell Hill.

Estimated time of leaving 7.30 am

The torch then travels into the Medway Unitary Authority area before going to Gravesham.

GRAVESHAM AREA

Estimated time of arrival 9.35 am

A226 Gravesend Road, Higham / Shorne,

GRAVESEND

Rochester Road, East Milton Road, Milton Road, Wellington Street, Saddington Street, The Grove, King Street, New Road, A226 Damley Road, Pelham Road, Overcliffe, B261 Old Road West and A227 Wrotham Road

Estimate time of leaving 10.40 am

The torch then travels on the Highways Agency's Trunk Road network, before going into the Sevenoaks Area.

SEVENOAKS AREA

A20 London Road, Farningham, Gorse Hill, Farningham, Scratchers Lane, Fawkham and A20 London Road, West Kingsdown.

TONBRIDGE & MALLING AREA

Estimated time of arrival 12.00 pm

WROTHAM

A20 London Road, A227 Wrotham By-pass and Borough Green Road

BOROUGH GREEN

Wrotham Road, A227 Western Road and A25 Sevenoaks Road

IGHTHAM

A227 Borough Green Road, Ightham By-pass and Sevenoaks Road

Estimated time of leaving: 12.15 pm

Additional Road Closures

The following roads will be closed between 10.00 am and 1.00 pm

Borough Green Road, Wrotham - from the junction with the A227 to the junction with High Street and Western Road, Borough Green

Western Road, Borough Green - for its entire length

High Street, Borough Green - for its entire length

SEVENOAKS AREA

Estimated time of arrival 12.20 pm

SEAL

A25 Maidstone Road and High Street

SEVENOAKS

A25 Seal Road, A225 St John's Hill, Dartford Road, Holly Bush Lane, A225 High Street, Pembroke Road, A224 London Road and Tubs Hill

RIVERHEAD

A224 London Road, Amherst Hill and Worships Hill

Westerham Road, Chevening

Estimated time of leaving 1.15 pm

Additional Road Closure

Zion Street, Seal will be closed between 8.00 am and 3.00 pm, from the junction with Church Road to the junction with A25 High Street

The torch then leaves the Kent area to the next community on route, Godstone.

OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY, KENT
(WAITING RESTRICTIONS) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
(AS AMENDED BY THE LONDON OLYMPIC GAMES AND PARALYMPIC GAMES ACT 2006)

To facilitate the holding of the Olympic Torch Relay through Kent, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting waiting on various roads in Kent, as defined below.

This Order comes into force on or after 16 July 2012 and will be in force when indicated by signage, and/or as directed by a uniformed Police Officer.

Waiting will be prohibited on the lengths of road shown, for the times indicated.

The list is arranged in alphabetical order of district.

ASHFORD

Road Name	Extent of restriction	Date & Times
The Street, Hamstreet	On both sides, between the junctions with Cock Lane (B2067) and Ashford Road	18 July 2012 9.00 am-11.00 am
Ashford Road, Hamstreet	On both sides, between the junction with Ashford Road and a point in line with the north-western boundary of Hamstreet CP School	18 July 2012 9.00 am-11.00 am
Beaver Road, Ashford	On both sides, between the junctions with Norman Road (B2229) and Avenue Jacques Faucheux (A2042)	18 July 2012 9.30 am-11.30 am
Essella Road, Ashford	On both sides, between the junction with Mabledon Avenue and a point in line with the common boundary of 56/58 Essella Road	18 July 2012 10.00 am-1.00 pm
A251 Faversham Road, Challock	On both sides, between the village sign and its junction with Canterbury Road (A252)	19 July 2012 4.30 pm-6.30 pm
A252 Canterbury Road, Challock	On both sides, between its junctions with Faversham Road(A251) and High Snoad Wood	19 July 2012 4.30 pm-6.30 pm

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

HIGHWAYS

SEVENOAKS

Road Name	Extent of restriction	Date & Times
A25 High Street, Seal	On the north side, from a point 5.5 metres east of the junction with the eastern kerb-line of School Lane, eastwards to a point 3 metres west of its junction with the western kerbline of Zion Street, a distance of 50 metres.	20 July 2012 8.00 am 4.00 pm
	On the north side, from a point 1 metre east of the junction with the eastern kerbline of Zion Street, eastwards for a distance of 14 metres.	
	The lay-by on the north side, outside properties 1 to 8 Seal House; from a point 2.1 metres east of the boundary between "Sunnyside" and 1 Seal House to a point 2.3 metres west of the boundary between 8 Seal House and The Library	

SWALE

Road Name	Extent of restriction	Date & Times
East Street, Faversham	On both sides, between the junctions with Newton Road/Crescent Road and St Mary's Road/Orchard Place	- 19 July 2012
Preston Street, Faversham	On the east side between its junctions with Station Road/Forbes Road and Stone Street	0.01 am 7.00 pm

TONBRIDGE & MALLING

Road Name	Extent of restriction	Date & Times
Western Road, Borough Green	On both sides, for its entire length	20 July 2012 8.00 am- 2.00 pm

TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Road Name	Extent of restriction	Date & Times
Mount Ephraim Road	Between the junctions with London Road and Culverden Street (North bound only)	**17 July 2012 8.00 am- 12.30 pm**
Mount Pleasant Road	Between the junctions with Crescent Road/Church Road and Grove Hill Road	
London Road	Between the junctions with Linden Park Road and Nevill Terrace	
Eridge Road	from junction with Broadwater Lane to Tunbridge Wells Garden Centre	

District of Canterbury

PETTMAN CLOSE PATH, HERNE BAY (RESTRICTIONS ON PEDESTRIANS AND CYCLISTS) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use of Pettman Close Path, Herne Bay, on or after 30 July 2012 for up to 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

Pettman Close Path will be closed for its entire length.

The alternative route for pedestrians and cyclists is via Beaumanor, Eddington Lane and Canterbury Road.

POUND LANE & ST RADIGUND'S STREET, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriagway micro-surfacing works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Pound Lane & St Radigund's Street, Canterbury, on or after 2 August 2012 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The roads will be closed in phases from outside 16 Pound Lane as far as the junction with Knotts Lane.

The alternative route for through traffic is via The Causeway, St Stephen's Road, B2248 Kingsmead Road, Northgate, (plus eastbound New Ruttington Lane, Union Place and Victoria Row), Borough and St Radigund's Street.

SLEIGH ROAD, STURRY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of water mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Sleigh Road, Sturry, on or after 30 July 2012 for up to 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with Island Road, with no through access between Island Road and Cedar Road.

The alternative route is via A28 Island Road, Homewood Road and Cedar Road.

Please note that a further closure may be necessary towards the end of September to make final connections, and will be notified nearer the time, if required.

ST LAWRENCE ROAD, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to remove an unsafe tree, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on St Lawrence Road, Canterbury, on or after Sunday 5th August 2012 for up to 1 day, between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm.

The road will be closed to through traffic for its entire length.

The alternative route is via A2050 New Dover Road to the roundabout then Old Dover Road.

VARIOUS ROADS, WHITSTABLE & HERNE BAY (MICRO-SURFACING) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway micro-surfacing works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on various roads in Whitstable & Herne Bay, as shown below.

The Order takes effect on or after 16 July 2012 for up to 2 weeks, or until the works have been completed.

SADDLETON ROAD and SYDNEY ROAD, WHITSTABLE will be closed on 16 and 17 July 2012, between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm each day.

Only one of the roads will be closed at any one time.

Saddleton Road - closed between Grimshill Road and Sydney Road

Sydney Road - closed between Saddleton Road and Grimshill Road.

Local diversions will be in place, dependant on the location of the works.

CHARLES STREET, HERNE BAY will be closed on 18 July 2012

The closure is for its entire length

The alternative route is via Canterbury Road, High Street, Beach Street, Mortimer Street and William Street

The side roads joining Charles Street will be closed at their junctions with Charles Street as the works progress.

The One-way Traffic Orders in respect of Little Charles Street, Cooper's Hill, North Street, Chapel Street and East Street will be suspended to allow access, when the relevant signs are amended.

BROOMFIELD ROAD, HERNE and BROOMFIELD will be closed on 20 July 2012

The closure is between the junctions with Mill Lane and Margate Road

The alternative route is via Margate Road, Hunters Forstall Road and Mill Lane

WINDMILL ROAD, HERNE & BROOMFIELD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway reconstruction works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Windmill Road, Herne & Broomfield, on or after 30 July 2012 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of property numbers 57-63.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Mount View Road and Sondes Close.

The alternative route is via Mill Lane and Pigeon Lane.

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

BOYES LANE, GOODNESTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to replace telegraph poles, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Boyes Lane, Goodnestone, on or after 16 July 2012 for up to 1 day, beyween 9.30 am and 3.30 pm.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Saddlers Hill and Cave Lane.

The alternative route is via Cave Lane, Buckland Lane and Catsole Hill.

LEVEL CROSSINGS, SANDWICH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of level crossing maintenance, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on various level crossings in Sandwich, as shown below.

ASH ROAD LEVEL CROSSING, ASH ROAD, SANDWICH will be closed from 22 July at 2.00 am through until 23 July 2012 at 4.00 am.

The alternative route is via Ash Road, A256 Sandwich Bypass, A258 Deal Road, New Street, Harnet Street, Strand Street (plus High Street, The Chain and Galliard Street in reverse) and Ash Road

SANDWICH LEVEL CROSSING, NEW STREET, SANDWICH will be closed in on Tuesday 24 July 2012 from 0.01 am (1 minute past midnight) until 5.00 am

The alternative route is via New Street, Harnet Street, Strand Street (plus High Street, The Chain and Galliard Street in reverse), Ash Road, A256 Sandwich Bypass, A258 Deal Road and New Street.

WOODNESBOROUGH ROAD LEVEL CROSSING, SANDWICH will be closed on Wednesday 25 July 2012 between 0.20 am until 5.15 am.

The alternative route is via Woodnesborough Road, St Bart's Road, New Street, Cattle Market and Moat Sole (plus Harnett Street, Strand Street, High Street, The Chain and Galliard Street in reverse).

MARINE PARADE, DOVER (TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 (AS AMENDED BY THE LONDON OLYMPIC GAMES AND PARALYMPIC GAMES ACT 2006)

To allow temporary modifications to be carried out to a road junction in connection with holding an Olympic Event, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Marine Parade, Dover, as shown below.

The planned closures are on Monday 16 July and Friday 20 July 2012.

The road will be closed at the junction with the A20 Townwall Street.

The alternative route is via Townwall Street and Wellesley Road.

SHELVIN FARM ROAD, DENTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching and resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Shelvin Farm Road, Denton, on or after 16 July 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between Shelvin Lane and Side Hills.

The alternative route is via Shelvin Lane, A260 Canterbury Road and Side Hills.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (A256 WHITFIELD HILL, DOVER) (PROHIBITION OF U-TURN) ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order introduces a Prohibition of U-turns in the following road:

Location	Proposal
A256 Whitfield Hill, Dover	From the junction with the A2 to the junction with London Road, River

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by this Order and a statement of reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent County Council, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8DH, between 8.30am and 5.00pm, and at the Dover District Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Whitfield, Dover, Kent

The Order will be made on 19 July 2012 and will come into operation on 23 July 2012.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make an application to the High Court for this purpose.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, DOVER DISTRICT) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES) CONSOLIDATION (AMENDMENT NO 14) ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL makes the above named Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order prohibits waiting at any time at the following location:-

Astor Avenue, Dover — *On the south side of the road, from the existing 'at any time' waiting restrictions west of the traffic island, in a westerly direction for a distance of 8m.*

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by this Order and a statement of reasons making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent County Council, Javelin Way Ashford, Kent, TN24 8DH, between 8.30am and 5.00pm, and at Dover District Council, Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Whitfield, Kent, CT16 3PJ during normal opening hours.

The Order will be made on 19 July 2012 and will come into operation on 23 July 2012.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make an application to the High Court for this purpose.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, DOVER DISTRICT) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES) CONSOLIDATION (AMENDMENT NO 11) ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL makes the above named Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the prohibits waiting at any time at the following locations:-

Gardners Close, Ash — *On both sides of the road from the junction with Sandwich Road in a southerly direction for a distance of 15 metres.*

Sandwich Road, Ash — *On the south side of the road, from the junction with Gardners Close for 10m in each direction*

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by this Order and a statement of reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent County Council, Javelin Way Ashford, Kent, TN24 8DH, between 8.30am and 5.00pm, and at Dover District Council, Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Whitfield, Kent, CT16 3PJ during normal opening hours.

The Order will be made on 19 July 2012 and will come into operation on 23 July 2012.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make an application to the High Court for this purpose.

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - District of Maidstone

BOW BRIDGE, WATERINGBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of surfacing repairs, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bow Bridge, Wateringbury, on or after 30 July 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the bridge.

The alternative route is via B2015 Maidstone Road, B2162 Hampstead Lane/Lees Road/High Street, B2010 Yalding Hill, Kenward Road, Bow Hill.

GEORGE LANE, LEEDS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on George Lane, Leeds, on or after 30 July 2012 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions of Lower Street and Burberry Lane.

The alternative route is via Lower Street, Penfold Hill, Burberry Lane.

GOUDHURST ROAD, STAPLEHURST (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Goudhurst Road, Staplehurst, on or after 19 July 2012 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with from Pinnock Lane to Pristling Lane.

The alternative route is via Pristling Lane, Five Oak Lane.

HOWLAND ROAD, MARDEN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to lay a high voltage cable, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Howland Road, Marden, on or after 16 July 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside Weavers Cottage.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions of Battle Lane and Albion Road.

The alternative route is via Battle Lane, St Ann's Green Lane, B2079 Maidstone Road.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF NORTHBOUND TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION (SPECIAL EVENTS) ACT 1994 SECTION 16A

One Mile Run - 20th July 2012

Kent County Council gives Notice that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst an event is being held on the highway. Kent County Council has made an Order; the effect will be to temporarily prohibit the use of Vehicles travelling on:-

Station Road - from Week Street to St Faiths Street

St Faiths Street

Fairmeadow - south inside lane

High Street

The Order will become effective on 20th July 2012. The restrictions/prohibitions specified in this notice will apply only during such times and to such extent as indicated by traffic signs in operation.

Nothing in the Order will apply to:

- Any Vehicle being used for Ambulance purposes, Coastguard/RNLI, Fire Brigade or Police services.
- Anything done by a Statutory Undertaker vehicle in connection with an emergency repair.
- Anything done with the permission or at the direction of a KCC traffic Marshall, Event Organisers or a Police Constable in Uniform.

THURNHAM LANE, THURNHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to install a new drinking water main, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Thurnham Lane, Thurnham, on or after 3 August 2012 for up to 2 months or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction of Ware Street for approximately 150 metres.

The alternative route is via Pilgrims Way, The Street, Hockers Lane, Ware Street.

HIGHWAYS - District of Shepway

RECTORY LANE, SALTWOOD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a water supply to a new development, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Rectory Lane, Saltwood, on or after 16 July 2012 for up to 2 days, between 9.00 am and 4.00 pm.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the stables.

There is no alternative route, as the road is a cul-de-sac. Every effort will be made to maintain access, but there may be times when this is not possible.

GIBRALTAR LANE, HAWKINGE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to lay electricity cabling in the highway, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Gibraltar Lane, Hawkinge, on or after 30 July 2012 for up to 5 days, or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Elvington Lane and Terlingham Lane.

The alternative route is via Crete Road West and Elvington Lane.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

HIGH STREET, SHOREHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of tree safety works on adjacent steep bank at Oxbourne House, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on High Street, Shoreham, on or after 30 July 2012 for up to until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the steep bank at Oxbourne House to junction with Shacklands Road.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Church Street and Shacklands Road.

The alternative route is via Castle Farm Road, Castle Road, A225 Station Road, Church Street.

PUDDLELOCK LANE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of repairs to water mains, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Puddlelock Lane, on or after 16 July 2012 for up to 4 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed for the whole length.

There will be no access for through traffic from the junction of Mapleton Road to the Junction of Toys Hill.

The alternative route is via Toys Hill, Pootings Road, Mapleton Road.

HIGHWAYS - District of Swale

CHURCH HILL, HERNHILL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of essential drainage works to prevent flooding, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Church Hill, Hernhill, on or after 30 July 2012 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of Church Hill School Mews.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Kays Lane and Fostall.

The alternative route is via Kays Lane, Kemsdale Road, Fostall and Church Hill.

CLOCKHOUSE LANE, BOUGHTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow an excavation in the carriageway to remove a redundant electrical box, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Clockhouse Lane, Boughton, from 30 July 2012 at 9.00 am until Friday 3 August at 4.00 pm, or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the level crossing.

The alternative route is via Clockhouse Lane, Selling Road and Brenley Lane.

GREEN LANE, RODMERSHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of water mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Green Lane, Rodmersham, on or after 30 July 2012 for up to 1 month or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed for its entire length.

The alternative route is via Stockers Hill, Highsted Valley, Cheney Hill, Slough Road and Pitstock Hill.

NORTON ROAD, NORTON & BUCKLAND (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow access to overhead cables to restore phone services, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Norton Road, Norton & Buckland, on or after 16 July 2012 for up to 5 days, between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Provender Lane and Lewson Street Road.

The alternative route is via Tickham Lane, Nouds Lane, Nouds Road, A2 London Road, and Norton Lane.

HIGHWAYS - District of Tunbridge Wells

LADHAM ROAD, GOUDHURST (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of kerbing works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Ladham Road, Goudhurst, on or after 30 July 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions of Chequers Road and Jarvis Lane.

The alternative route is via Jarvis Lane, Chequers Road.

PETTERIDGE LANE, BRENCHLEY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Petteridge Lane, Brenchley, on or after 19 July 2012 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside 41 to 44.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions of Cryals Road and Tibbs Court Lane.

The alternative route is via Petteridge Lane, B2160 Maidstone Road, A21 Hastings Road, Cryals Road, Petteridge Lane.

John Burr
Director Kent Highways
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 15th July 2012

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council





Flypast to honour the bravery of war pilots

SEE PAGE 56



HELLO TOWIE

The only way is Quex for Jessica Wright

SEE PAGE 57

Kent Weekend



Horn of plenty

Newborn joy at Port Lympne PAGE 55

PLUS: Chain eateries need to remember the basics - **food and drink p51**
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THE INTERVIEW

Amanda Reifer

Feel good and enjoy the sunshine

Cover Drive singer tells **Joe Bill** why she is so happy with Caropop

THE Caribbean has always been a hotbed of musical ability – you only have to look at the Marley family to know the depth and diversity of the talent among the islands.

New Caropop group Cover Drive are the latest collective to appear on the music scene, signing to British label Polydor from their home in Barbados.

The foursome have already had a UK No 1 and bagged two other top-10 hits; they have also opened for pop-star Rhianna on her tour. But the group's laid-back Carribean attitude remains ever-present depsite the developing hysteria surrounding them.

Lead singer Amanda Reifer said: "I would describe our album as the cheapest trip to Barbados you can get. If you want a vacation and you can't afford the flight, just buy our album – it is feel-good, sunshine music.

"We like to call it Caropop music, which is a mixture of Caribbean music like reggae, calypso or dancehall mixed with pop music. It makes you feel good – it reminds me of being on a beach in the sunshine."

Cover Drive will be performing at the Sound Island Festival at Quex Park, Birchington, later this month, but the weather and the atmosphere may be a little different to that of their first gig almost two years ago.

The 22-year-old said: "Our first ever gig was opening for Rhianna in Barbados for that leg of her tour. It was our first gig ever and it was in front of 25,000 people, which was incredible.

"Actually it was really scary. We hadn't been on stage before, never in front of that many people, and obviously opening for Rhianna – she is a mega superstar across the world.

"We were really nervous at first, but we had so much fun and she was really cool with us and as soon as we got on stage all the nerves went away. It was an amazing first gig."

The rest of the band is made up of Barry 'Bar Man' Hill on guitar, Jamar Harding on bass and T-Ray Armstrong on drums, but the crew have all been playing together for years.

Reifer said: "We got together to make music through all of us being friends and living in the same place. I used to babysit T-Ray; he and Jamar are the same age and knew each other; and I met Bar Man at college.



"We were all just kind of wasting time playing music together and not really going anywhere with it. T-Ray's mum, she is now our manager, suggested that we stop wasting our time and started a band. And since we did that, it has been amazing."

Cover Drive went on to use social-networking video site YouTube to launch themselves, and it seemed to work pretty well.

"We thought 'How can we let people know we are around?'. There weren't too many places we could perform because we were under age and we just went for YouTube instead.

"We played some covers and wanted to make them really fun and show off our personalities. And T-Ray played some random instruments – including a Red Bull can, I think. We had fun and put the video up and it just got so many views. It grabbed some interest from a label and now we have done more than 60 covers as well as our own stuff."

Their song Twilight bagged a No 1 earlier this year, while their follow-up single Sparks took a No 4 spot from debut album Bajan Style.

"The group No Doubt are our biggest influence," said Reifer. "We love them and are a little bit obsessed with them. I know everything about them – a little too obsessed, maybe.

"We have met Tony Kanal from No Doubt and worked with him on a single. It didn't go on our album in the end because we were so star-struck that we didn't even get to finish it. He was cool and a really nice guy.

"We also met will.i.am from Black Eyed Peas and he gave us some really good advice. We didn't want to do any collaborations on our album in the end – we wanted people to just get a feel for us."

However, for their coming single the group have announced that they will be working with a UK star.

"We are doing some collaborations this time. Our new single will have a guest singer on it – I don't want to tell you, but OK I will tell you. Dappy from N-Dubz is going to be on our next single. We just shot the video with him yesterday."

Whether or not he will he appear at Sound Island isn't clear, but Cover Drive did confirm two other rumours. The first is that they will be touring with X Factor group JLS this summer and the second is that their name derives from a cricketing term...

"Cover Drive is a cricket shot. T-Ray's dad is obsessed with cricket and we were trying to think of a name for the band. He used to train the Barbados cricket team and all that and we couldn't think of any names. So he said 'What about Cover Drive – it's an excellent shot in cricket'. We strive for excellence, so this was perfect and we liked how it sounded."

At the Sound Island gig the group will be on the same stage as Olly Murs and Rizzle Kicks, two acts that they already rate highly.

"We spend most of our time in the UK. We are signed to Polydor Records here, so this is where we tend to stay.

"We have been back and forth from the UK for the last two years, so of course we know all about Olly Murs and Rizzle Kicks – we are super-excited to be performing with them."

• Cover Drive will play the Sound Island Festival at Quex Park on Sunday, July 29. Visit www.gigantic.com or phone 0844 8889991 for tickets. They can also be booked by visiting Margate Winter Gardens.

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More attention to detail would break the chain of mediocrity

RESTAURANT **REVIEW**

IN a time when celebrity chefs dominate our screens and the culinary arts are all the rage, top independent restaurants are cleaning up. And while there will always be a market for chain restaurants, I cannot help but think they have had a raw deal of late.

Now, chain diners are not expecting their meals to be served up by Heston Blumenthal, but a good dish is still a good dish. So when news broke that the ever-reliable Pizza Express had opened a new restaurant in trendy Whitstable, there were no tears from me.

The décor of the new venue is modern and clean, while diners can watch the chefs at work.

My other half and I opted for the classic Italian antipasto sharing dish at £9.90. It arrived on a fancy tripod and was perfectly presented. "Cured Italian meats", as described on the menu, were in fact slices of an Italian sausage... singular but still delicious. This was on a bed of rocket, warm dough sticks, roasted tomatoes, large green Sicilian olives, baby mozzarella and sweet pepperdew peppers.

The ingredients worked well and were fresh-tasting, but without a dressing the rocket was overpowering and dry.

For the mains my guest went pasta with the pollo pesto, made up of red onions, chicken,



mozarella, Parmesan, pesto sauce and mushrooms at £9.60. Very tasty, I was told.

I went pizza and for a Romana-style base (very thin and crispy) with a new recipe, the meatball Bolognese. To me that sounded like heaven for £11.75. It featured a Bolognese sauce, beef meatballs, roquito peppers, mozarella, Grana Padano (an Italian cheese) and rocket. It arrived and magnificently covered half of the table. However, I couldn't actually see the pizza for the small field of rocket that covered it. Once most of that had been picked off, the pizza was all I thought it would be. Superbly cooked, great texture, great taste.

Dessert was banoffee pie at £4.95 for her and chocolate-fudge cake with cream (£4.95) for me.

The latter arrived with ice-cream rather than cream. I wasn't too fussed about the change, but I do hate it when service staff don't write down the order and then get it wrong.

My warmed-up pudding was average.

With just three tables in the restaurant at this point, my partner had asked for the bill with the delivery of our desserts. It didn't come.

With the clearance of the plates, we asked again for the bill. It didn't come.

Diners from another table went to the desk to ask for the bill and only once the waitress had finished her conversations did she deliver it.

Half an hour after we had first asked, I went to the desk and paid £53.05. It isn't always the food that distinguishes the independent restaurants from the chains – it is the little details and the staff that can make for a great experience. Maybe it's just a question of caring.

Joe Bill

Pizza Express
The Old Warehouse, 1 Albert Street
Whitstable CT5 1HP
Telephone 01227 263377



The gap is bridged

AFTER almost four years of standing unused on Maidstone's waterside, the former River Bar building has been restored to its former glory.

The picturesque venue in the heart of the county town will be taken under the wing of Michael Schembri and renamed Bridges.

The new business will incorporate a stylish wine bar offering modern English cuisine on the lower floor of the building, while upstairs will house a restaurant offering à la carte dining.

With a new experienced chef at the helm, the kitchen team will be using top local ingredients for quality fish and meat dishes.

Having lain dormant for many years, the building had been damaged by arsonists and was in danger of becoming a regular haunt for drug-users.

The business has also created jobs, with 12 members of staff already having been recruited. The building is ideal for weddings, parties and big functions. For more information, you can phone 01622 753700.

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(T&C's below)

LADY 70's, easygoing, likes most things, medium build, seeks gent for friendship, car owner. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386331**

SENSUAL 32yr old professional with no time to have a relationship, seeks similar understanding male for compatible discreet relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386309**

BECKY 34 single mum of one, GSOH, employed with OHAC, fun to be with and very loving, WLTM Mr Right if he is out there? ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386305**

LOUISE young 48, long hair, blue eyes, cultured, easygoing, good natured, seeks intelligent, genuine guy for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389389**

BUBBLY female, 49, kind, caring, honest, GSOH, brown hair, blue eyes, likes meals out, pubs, cooking, cinema, seeks male with similar interests for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390815**

MID 40's slim, attractive female, seeks single male, 65-80 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391989**

DONNA 24yr old single nurse, curvy, pretty, brown hair, big eyes, single and fun to be with, WLTM mature male for romance 25-45yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391117**

SARAH 27yr old single mum, independent, very pretty, GOSH, many interests, seeking male for cuddles and lots of TLC. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391097**

DENISE very normal single white female, likes nights in/out, keeping fit, seeking genuine romantic black male for ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391093**

JACQ 45, slim, natural blonde, blue eyes, GSOH, seeks confident guy for company/friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391564**

KAREN 38 slim and attractive seeking confident professional for companionship, status/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392407**

28YR old lady, seeking male, 35-60 for serious relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391756**

BUBBLY fun loving single mum, 47, seeks Knight in shining armour, 38-55 to put the spark back into life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392951**

JEM 24 new to this, WLTM someone who also enjoys fine wine/dining for good times and adult relationship, 28-45yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392497**

TRACY likes nights in/out, seeking honest male, 36-46 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391884**

SERENE affable black attractive slim female 37 with a benevolent smile, friendly, loves reading nature, theatre, music, sports WLTM genuine caring gent, 34-47 to share laughter/life. London **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369411**

YOUNG in outlook 60yr old lady, seeks gent with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393173**

JUDY slim blue eyed blonde, 35yrs, great fun, intelligent, educated, N/S, seeks witty guy for gym dates, friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393135**

VERY attractive single black female, 32, loves night in/out, seeking genuine companion for text fun, love and laughter. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393131**

FAY very lonely single mum, 26yrs looking for some adult companionship with open minded, non-judgmental male. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393121**

LORRAINE 32yr old petite attractive female looking for male to turn up the heat on our rather gloomy summer. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393119**

MARGARET middle aged, attractive, likes storm chasing, cooking, seeks male with GSOH, possible forces. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391648**

SARAH 40, large, tactile, likes cuddles, walks, cinema, beach, meals out, seeking male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390912**

AFFABLE serene black attractive slim female 37 with a benevolent smile, loves reading nature, theatre, music WLTM genuine caring gent to share laughter/life. London **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369411**

MEL easy going middle aged singleton looking for adult companionship with nice male who appreciates a feminine, attractive lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392487**

WELL educated female, slim, smart, mid 50's, needing to restart life, looking for tall, slim, smart gent with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391136**

ELIZABETH 70 plus, enjoys life, GSOH, seeks caring man for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390990**

51YR old attractive Queen of the Jungle, seeking genuine, caring older gent for uncomplicated times together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390916**

JACKIE 32 attractive classy professional, blue eyes, brown hair, healthy/trim, well travelled, feminine, smart, seeks male, 40-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391013**

JAYNE honest sincere attractive lonely professional, OHAC, looking for fun times with similar lonely gent, age/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390985**

LADY 70's, easygoing, likes most things, medium build, seeks gent for friendship, car owner. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387743**

ANNE 60, Christian, WLTM similar person. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390496**

AMANDA 25yr old easygoing singleton looking for fun times only with mature male, 35-55. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389733**

SOPHIE lonely fun attractive female, 21, looking for fun nights out and cosy nights in with similar male, any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389731**

LADY 60's, bubbly, hurt in past, likes socialising, cooking, cats, holidays, seeks kind honest gent, 58-65 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389653**

KIRSTY 44yr going on 24yrs, sensual, attractive and in need of spoiling, and attention, seeks likeminded male for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383051**

BERYL 57, likes fishing, home life, seeks gent, 60-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382503**

NATALIE professional 30's female, no ties, everything a classy blonde should be, looking for special times with male up to 65yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391871**

FEMALE 48, kind, caring, bubbly, GSOH, likes meals out, pubs, cinema, cooking, seeks male, 40-50 with similar interests for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383787**

CHRISTIAN lady, seeks Christian man, 58 plus for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386565**

JUNE good looking divorced 40's female, bubbly romantic and looking for tlc. Genuine replies only pls. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386301**

46YR old young, curvy single mum, easygoing, caring, GSOH, wants to live and love, seeks honest man, 35-55 for genuine relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387143**

MONIQUE black, looking for N/S gentleman, 50-60 with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391220**

SUSAN very pretty curvy blue eyed girlie girl, WLTM genuine male seeking a classy blonde for a mutually loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391085**

JEANETTE big brown eyed busty fit size 10 with lots of interest, searching for a sincere man to share love and life with. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374703**

JENNY very young shy black female looking for reliable, genuine nice older man to help me become an attentive lover, 40-70yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374701**



HELLO I'm Jane, attractive, genuine, caring, intelligent, romantic and single at 38yrs, what are you waiting for? Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374677**

ALISHA blue eyed petite brunette, likes to keep fit, cooking, holidays, seeks male 30-45 for special times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392399**

MICHELE very attractive black single mum, 32yrs, someone you could take home to your mother, seeking a one in a million guy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391879**

GEORGINA likes horses, dogs, walks, seeks male, 60-72 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386426**

TANYA 28, beautiful black single mum, very body confident and all out of love. Lonely and looking for good company with experienced respectful man. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381727**

HI genuine, fun to be with male? Nancy 39, attractive, discreet, lonely and in need of some much missed male attention. Call me **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381705**

IRENE looking for happy go lucky relationship with trustworthy male for romantic evenings in, quiet nights out, passionate weekends away and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381701**

SLIM tall, elegant, feminine, NS, solvent lady, young 50's, loves travel, red wine, seeks tall, sincere, military/professional gent of high calibre. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388071**

NICOLE lonely and looking for love, cultured, intelligent, beautiful, creative and looking for sincere male for mature loving ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388145**

JACQUELINE blue eyed attractive petite blonde, fit/active and social looking to meet similar kind male for ltr and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388137**

YOUTHFUL 52yr old female, old fashioned, seeks N/S male, 52-56 to have a talk and laugh with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390771**

MARIE 45, Irish, GSOH, seeking male with GSOH and lots of energy for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391222**

JACKIE late 40's, attractive, slim, fun to be with, looking for friendship, maybe more. Enjoys walking, nights in and meals out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389283**

HI I'm Jane a 40yr old divorcee with 3 children, looking to fall in love again, seeks genuine, confident, very tactile male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386643**

TINA new to this and a bit nervous, lonely blue eyed 30yr old looking for male companion 30-50yrs. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386625**

SARA 31 tall sexy and single, lovely green eyes, outgoing and social WLTM tall down to earth stable male for poss ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386623**

DEBBIE 5ft 8ins, brown hair/eyes, 5ft 8ins, slim, 47, likes gym, cinema, bowling, meals out, concerts, single mum, seeks male for friendship, maybe more **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390362**

ANNE romantic lady, 60's, looking for that special someone for LTR, late 50's or 60's with own car. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386225**

ATTRACTIVE lady 45, medium build, fair hair, 5ft 2ins, seeks kind gent for companionship and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383987**

DEBBIE 5ft 8ins, short dark hair/eyes, slim, daughter, easygoing, likes dinner, cinema, bowling, gym, music, travel, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386337**

SUE young looking vivacious female with great sense of humour, OHAC, independent, interesting and sensual, seeking single tactile male. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386275**

JACQUELINE 51, 5ft 8ins, green eyes, auburn hair, likes theatre, walks, seeks honest, down to earth, sincere fun man for good times, friendship and nights out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387539**

ALICE 18yr old tall blonde carefree student, looking for exciting male 18-30 for good times only. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387107**

MANDY 45, 5ft 6ins, attractive, blue/green eyes, trendy, seeks tall, N/S male of similar age with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384555**

HI I'm Jo, petite, pretty, fed up with own company, seeking male to help me get back into the swing of things, for uncomplicated fun times together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387103**

LISA blonde hair, blue eyes, medium build, seeks fun loving, adventurous male, 45-52 for friendship, fun and who knows what else. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389020**

WENDY cuddly 52yr old romantic, GSOH, N/S, likes reading, cinema, meals out, seeks male, 45-55 with GSOH to be my Knight in shining armour. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389614**

MARION 38 slim, sporty, fun with good personality, loves travel, holding hands and caring for people. Seeks genuine male, no time wasters. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383159**

VAL compassionate outgoing female with a big heart and no preconceptions just looking for love with similar minded male. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383155**

Men Seeking

Ladies Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people.

Send : CHAT601 To : 65125 (T&C's below)

LIGHT hearted 58yr old male, 6ft, blue eyes, slim, lively, active, seeks pretty woman 28-50 for fun times. Croydon. **Tel No:0906 515 7112 Box No: 393567**

EARLY 50's male, medium build, brown eyes, likes theatre, meals out, good times, walks, swimming, seeks female for mutual fun. **Tel No:0906 515 7112 Box No: 393561**

DAVID 70 plus, seeks female, 55 plus for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No:0906 515 7112 Box No: 391994**

40'S MAmale, nice looking, 6ft, seeking nice female to share time with. **Tel No:0906 515 7112 Box No: 391960**

PAUL 47, likes sports, nights out, seeks female for fun and friendship. **Tel No:0906 515 7112 Box No: 391954**

SINCERE male, 55, seeks attractive, sincere lady for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393591**

MATURE professional, semi-retired man, fit, well travelled, financially sound, not old but very well done, seeks elegant, mature, worldly lady for close companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393369**

STEVE 30, easy going, seeking mature female, 30-50 for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391932**

CARIBBEAN young lady, 30, caring, genuine, seeks young Christian gent, 30-40 who is dedicated to God for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386117**

SUSIE tactile 33yr old female who loves fast cars and motorbikes, seeks genuine male prepared to live life in the fast lane, 35-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382163**

LYNDA very attractive attached female, own transport and willing to travel, seeking similar natured male for extra circular activities. Must be discreet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386653**

47YR old tall male, GSOH, seeking female for loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393071**

YOUNG 60yr old male, OHAC, seeking love and affection. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393055**

STEVE young looking guy seeks slim lady, 20-60 for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391512**

MATURE male, discreet, genuine, seeks attractive, slim, petite lady, 40-65 for mutual fun relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391568**

MALE 55, medium build, seeks female for laugh, text, chat, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391714**

GRANT 43, seeks young female, 25-49. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391720**

MALE likes animals, simple things in life, seeks N/S, tall, slim female with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391738**

DANIEL 38, single dad, 6ft, medium build, brown hair, GSOH, likes music, walks, animals, cinema, nights in, seeks sincere female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391746**

DAVID light hearted positive 58yr old male, has high expectation of what he can offer a woman aged between 30-52. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383275**

HANDSOME polite male, likes music, swimming, football, cricket, cooking, seeks respectful, attractive female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391812**

DAVID 70 plus, lonely, seeks lady, 70 plus for fun times and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391878**

STEVE 61, young at heart, 6ft 2ins, easy going, N/S, own home, divorced, likes music, cooking, conversation, country pubs, seeks female for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391876**

51YR old male, good looking, seeking female for discreet fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391844**

JOHN 60, many interests, seeks female, any status for company and platonic friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391772**

ROMANTIC honest, caring male, 40, likes meals out, theatre, cinema, walks, seeks caring lady of similar age for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392893**

GEORGE sincere, slim, active, likes meals out, drives, seeks lady 70-85 to enjoy life and share happy times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392625**

PETE 40, dark hair, blue eyes, fit, likes dancing, walks, cinema, meals out, seeks female, 25-50 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391748**

RON 62, good at heart, divorced, looking for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392533**

HONEST early 40's male, 5ft 2ins, big heart, lots of love to give, WLTM petite lady for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392123**

RETIRED gent, carer, tall, gentle giant, likes cuddles, seeks female, 40 plus for walks, drives, chats and afternoon tea. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392071**

ADE early 40's, 5ft 10ins, medium build, looking for lady for mutual fun and good times together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384495**

Gay Seeking

IF YOU'RE LOOKING to connect and chat with other men look no further TXT: **GAY601** to **65125** for 3 chat matches, fun and safe service. **(T&C's below)**

Go online - www.localgaydate.co.uk

MALE seeking friend for sailing once/twice a week. **Tel No:0906 515 7112 Box No: 391950**

MIDDLE aged attractive bi TV, seeks couple/older guy for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391920**

JASON 35, medium build, good looking, seeking discreet fun and friendship with genuine, similar guys. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391866**

52YR old guy, good looks, seeking male for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391862**

BI guy 56 seeks couple for discreet fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391656**

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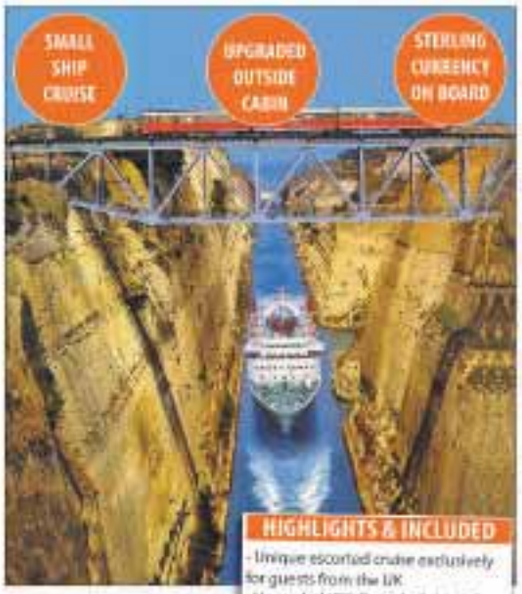
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- Services of our cruise manager on board
- Sterling on-board currency
- All transfers abroad

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9 days, semi-all-inclusive

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£1049pp

28 September, 2012

This super holiday to Italy starts with a glass of bubbly at St Pancras famous Champagne Bar, before travelling by Eurostar and TGV train via Paris to Lugano, near Lake Como. In Italy, enjoy our all inclusive hotel, included excursions and the opportunity to ride on the famous Bernina Express scenic railway.

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- Escorted throughout
- Champagne check-in at St Pancras
- Return Eurostar and TGV train travel London St Pancras to Lugano (*from Ebbsfleet on request)





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- Included excursions take in Bellagio, Varenna, Lake Maggiore & the Borromeo Islands
- All transfers abroad



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10 days

Quote TM9-KOS

£1199pp

17 September, 2012

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INCLUDED:

- Escorted throughout
- Champagne check-in at London St Pancras & afternoon departure (*from Ebbsfleet on request)
- Return Eurostar train to Paris and overnight train to/from Italy in private 2 berth cabin
- 1 night half board in Venice Lido
- 6 nights 4-star half board in Montecatini - Guided walking tours of Venice & Florence
- Visits to: Lucca, Florence, Pisa, San Gimignano, Portovenere & Bologna
- All transfers abroad



Slovenia & Croatia Coast & Country Explorer

Escorted Holiday by Air

8 Days, half board

£759pp

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26 September, 2012

Slovenia must be one of Europe's best kept secrets, from the balmy Adriatic coast to stunning Lake Bled, this former Yugoslavian state surprises and delights new visitors. Neighbouring Croatia is perhaps better known. Here we visit Rovinj - widely regarded as Croatia's most picturesque town, and cruise on the Limska Draga Fjord. We stay 4 nights on Slovenia's coast, then 3 nights at Lake Bled. The journey from the coast to Bled includes a ride on the Bohinj Railway, one of Europe's great rail journeys.

INCLUDED:

- Return British Airways flights Gatwick (13.50 departure) to Venice - subject to availability
- Escorted throughout abroad
- 7 nights half board hotel stay
- Excursions
- All transfers abroad



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4 days, all inclusive

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1 & 4 December, 2012

Join us for a fun-packed cruise, taking in Bruges, Ghent, Ostend and an array of fabulous Christmas markets. Our floating hotel, the mv Princess, will deliver us to each town in comfort and style with everything on board included - all drinks from 9am to midnight, breakfast, lunch, afternoon cakes, dinner, late snacks and entertainment. Our journey to join the cruise in Belgium experiences the thrill and convenience of European rail travel.

INCLUDED:

- Escorted throughout
- Return rail travel from London St Pancras (from Ebbsfleet on request) to Ghent/Ostend
- 3-night all-inclusive cruise on the mv Princess sharing a twin bedded en suite main deck cabin - upgrades available
- Entertainment on board
- All transfers abroad



It's Gazza the Great

Paul Gascoigne

The Orchard Theatre, Dartford
Thursday, November 8, at 8pm
01322 220000
www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

ONE of English football's best-ever players, Paul Gascoigne, will be making an appearance at Dartford's Orchard theatre.

An Audience With Paul Gascoigne has been confirmed for later this year and the stories are sure to flow.

Gazza, who is as well known for his mischievous antics off the pitch as his dazzling performances on it, will reveal the memories of his sensational career.

From plastic breasts to the dentist's chair and from tears in Italy to that goal against Scotland, Gazza is a world icon. He will be joined on stage by compère Terry Baker and special guest Ron Harris. Tickets are on sale at £40

A-maize-ing

Pick this place for a puzzle

Penshurst Place, near Tonbridge
Saturday, July 21, to September
www.penshurstplace.com

FOR the first time, Penshurst Place will have a maze attraction for visitors to enjoy during the school summer holidays this year.

But get this – the maze is made out of, well, maize. And it's sure to provide hours of eco-fun for the family.

The new attraction has been designed by Mazescape and will be open at Penshurst from Saturday, July 21, to mid-September, depending on the weather conditions.

The maze will be free to visit for full-paying garden-ticket-holders and Penshurst Place season-ticket-holders.

For voucher- and other card-holders there will be a small extra charge of £2 per adult, £1 per child, per visit to take on the winding, life-size puzzle.





Joyous arrival

Black rhinos are up by one

Port Lympne, Hythe
Open from 9.30am-6pm
0844 8424647
www.aspinallfoundation.org

KEEPERS at Port Lympne Wild Animal Park have been thrilled by the birth of a black rhinoceros at the site.

The little female was born just two weeks ago to mum Nyasa and dad Zambezi, taking the number of black rhinos at the park to 14.

The youngster is already running about and playing in the sunshine as she gets used to her surroundings in the Kent countryside.

Only last month, three black rhino were released back into the wild in Tanzania through the Aspinall Foundation, with a little help from Prince William.

See the yet-unnamed baby on the African Safari at the park, which will be running every day throughout the summer.

Art exhibition

TV contestant is in the city

Lilford Gallery, Palace Street, Canterbury
Sat, July 14-Sat, August 4
01227 766616

BRITISH artist Charles Williams will stage an exhibition of his work at Canterbury's Lilford Gallery this month to coincide with his appearance on BBC Two arts contest Show Me The Monet.

The artist is featured in the series that follows the fortunes of amateur and professional artists from acrosss the UK as they compete for a spot at a grand exhibition at the Royal College Of Art in London.

Williams, who was born in the US and raised in England, studied at Maidstone College Of Art at the same time as Tracey Emin and went on to study at the Royal Academy, London, where in 1992 he winning the top prize for painting.

Williams's Canterbury exhibition runs until the first week of August.

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playing in our garden

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All for only £25,000 for quick sale.
07532 423 466

ABSOLUTE BARGAIN STATIC CARAVAN FOR SALE £11,400
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To be included on this page, please email **features@kosmedia.co.uk**



Cars, a castle and collections

Vintage days

Chiddingstone Castle
Wednesday, July 25
01892 870347
chiddingstonecastle.org.uk

AT a special event later this month, visitors to picturesque Chiddingstone Castle can admire beautifully-restored veteran motor cars.

More than 80 vehicles will be on display in front of the castle, arriving as part of the Veteran Car Company Best Of West Kent Run 2012, which takes the cars on a route around the countryside.

After exploring the grounds, visitors can choose to discover the secrets inside the castle and the fascinating collections of Denys Eyre Bower, including the famous Japanese Collection, the Egyptian artefacts and the Stuart and Jacobite exhibition.

Tickets are priced at £8 for adults and £5 for children, with the under-fives going in free.

Back in town

Alfie Boe calls by for a return

The Orchard Theatre, Dartford
Thursday, July 19
01322 220000
www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

OVERWHELMING public demand has led to English tenor Alfie Boe returning for a second performance at The Orchard in Dartford.

The West End, Broadway and recording superstar will be treading the Dartford boards for a second time this year, on Thursday, July 19, following his sell-out show in May.

Boe has brought various genres of music to new audiences around the world and will once again showcase his spectacular voice.

His tour follows the phenomenal success of his two latest albums Bring Him Home and Alfie. Both albums have been in the top-10 best-seller list and between them sold more than half a million records.



It's not just a silly phase

10cc on tour

The Marlowe, Canterbury
Thursday, October 11
01227 787787
www.marlowetheatre.com

LEGENDARY 70s pop band 10cc have announced that their 40th anniversary tour will include Canterbury's Marlowe theatre.

Having sold more than 15 million albums in the UK and 30 million worldwide, 10cc are celebrating an incredible journey through No 1 hits such I'm Not In Love (1975) and Dreadlock Holiday (1978).

Founding member Graham Gouldman said: "It's hard to believe it's 40 years since 10cc was born in Strawberry Studios in Stockport. I'm immensely proud of all we have achieved. As long as the fans want to hear the songs played live, I'll be happy to oblige."

10cc earned public acclaim for their 11 top-10 UK singles, some of which have been covered by the likes of Fun Lovin' Criminals.



So much for so many

Battle of Britain flight

Capel-le-Ferne, Folkestone
Sunday, July 15
Flypasts at 1.30pm and 3pm
www.battleofbritainmemorial.org

THE Battle of Britain Memorial Flight will pass over Capel-le-Ferne this weekend to mark the anniversary of the historic combat.

Both a Spitfire and a Hurricane will fly over the Kent coast to salute the 72nd anniversary of the battle as the nation pays its respects to the-almost 3,000 airmen who took to the sky to end Nazi invasion plans in the summer of 1940.

Twelve members – all now in their 90s – of the elite group of men Winston Churchill first described as The Few will parade at the National Memorial To The Few, on the coast road just outside Folkestone.The event will start with the first flypast at 1.30pm.

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YOUR WEEKEND

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Blake's four
Networking superstars

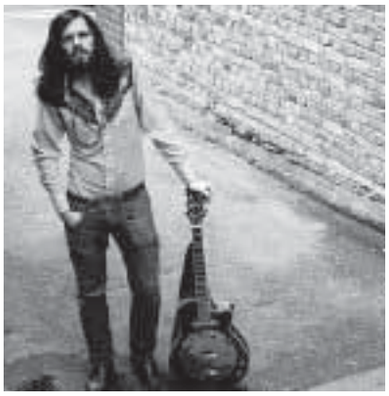
The Gulbenkian, Canterbury
Friday, September 21
01227 76907
www.kent.ac.uk/gulbenkian

WIDELY known as the group who formed on Facebook, classical-pop crossover band Blake have booked a show at The Gulbenkian in Canterbury for later this year.

The foursome have already sold half a million albums worldwide and been nominated for two Brit Awards, while leading the anthems for the Enligsh national rugby team at Twickenham

The vocal harmony quartet present their new UK tour Love Lifts Us Up, on which they will perform their unique renditions of pop, classical and West-End anthems.

Humphrey Berney, Ollie Baines, Jules Knight and Stephen Bowman have been in demand after performances and interviews on Daybreak, BBC Breakfast, Loose Women, The Alan Titchmarsh Show and Sky News.



The new blues
Introducing Mr Bofanti

The Duke of Cumberland, Whitstable
Saturday, July 21
www.wegottickets.com

UP-AND-COMING singer and guitarist Marcus Bonfanti heads to the WhitLive introducing stage at The Duke of Cumberland.

Nominated in this year's British Blues Awards for best vocal and best guitarist, this spellbinding young performer has a voice like sand and glue and is likely to be loosening the plaster from the ceiling.

Described as a mix between Jimmy Page and Seasick Steve, the modern bluesman will follow in the footsteps of ShyChlo and Janice Graham Band, who sold out the venue.

Tickets are available from The Duke of Cumberland, Gatefield Sounds in Whitstable and Herne Bay, Canterbury Rock and online at www.wegottickets.com.

TOWIE star on Sound Island
Jessica Wright

Quex Park, Birchington
Sat and Sun, July 28-29
0844 888 9991
www.gigantic.com

JESSICA Wright, star of hit TV show The Only Way Is Essex, has announced she will be performing at the Sound Island Festival.

The reality TV regular will be using the Quex Park event to push her debut single due for release in the coming weeks. Wright is signed to the same dance record label as NDubz's Tulisa Contostavlos.

The singer will join the Sunday line-up, which now includes headliner Olly Murs, Rizzle Kicks, Cover Drive and Diana Vickers.

Opening night of the festival promises to capture the nostalgia of 90s Britpop with performances by a top line-up including headliners James, Echo & the Bunnymen, Cast, The Farm and Space.





Kneel before the king
Summer jousting

Hever Castle, Edenbridge
Sat and Sun, July 14-15, and through summer
01732 865224
www.hevercastle.co.uk

HENRY VIII invites all to come and join in the special celebration at Hever Castle when Sir Samuel of Hever is knighted.

The ceremony on July 14-15 marks the start of the annual jousting tournament. Spectators will be treated to a display of action, stunts, falls and fights as the Knights of Royal England bring the medieval sport to life in this castle of kings.

Each tournament starts when the King and Queen arrive at the castle at 2pm to greet visitors and invite them to the jousting arena.

The battles begin at 2.15pm and last about an hour.

The tournaments continue during the summer weekends. For more dates, see online.



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For tickets and more information please call 01634 890421 or visit www.dickensworld.co.uk



MARITIME JAZZ FESTIVAL
Britannia Theatre, Dickens World
Friday 21st September & Saturday 22nd September 2012 from 7pm
Tickets from £14.00pp. For tickets and more information
please call 01634 890421 or visit www.dickensworld.co.uk



LUTHOR VANDROSS & WHITNEY HOUSTON TRIBUTE NIGHT
Britannia Theatre, Dickens World
Saturday 29th September 2012 from 7pm. Tickets £24.95pp
For tickets and more information please call 0207 25 25 25 0
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SCHOOL'S **OUT**

ATTRACTIONS

Make the most of the county during the summer holiday

NOW the school holidays are upon us it is time for the family to venture out and explore those attractions that are right on our awesome doorstep.

Discover the captivating essence of the Garden of England by wandering along lanes past fields, orchards, vineyards and oast houses or across the downs that form such a distinctive landscape.

Or travel to the coast and experience the grandeur of the White Cliffs of Dover, the expanse of marshland along the north coast or the sandy beaches of Thanet.

Taste the local delicacies, ranging from the lamb of Romney Marsh to the oysters of Whitstable, and get a feeling for the reasons Kent has such an enviable reputation for all kinds of astonishing produce.

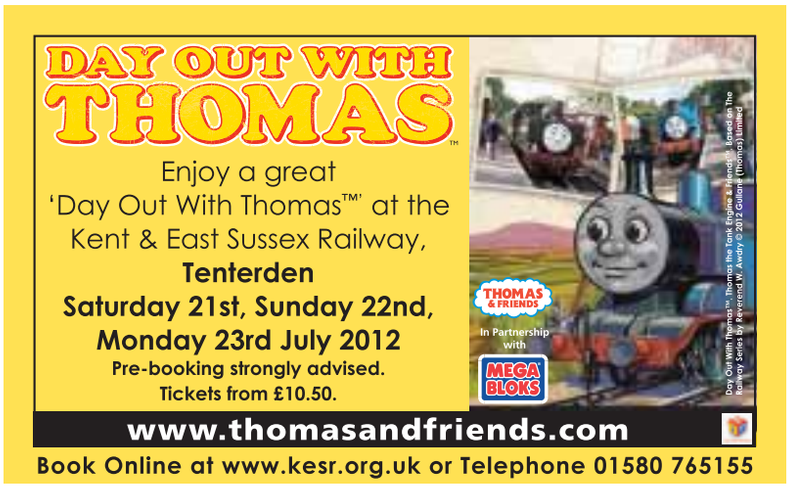
It is also time to be enriched by the things that make Kent unique and bring its exciting past alive.

Visit Canterbury – with Chaucer's pilgrims – and Rochester – with Charles Dickens – and follow the maritime adventures at Chatham Historic Dockyard that have shaped Kent from Roman invasion to the Second World War. Castles, historic homes, churches and cathedrals, as well as gardens and parks, are all in abundance just waiting to be discovered.

And towns and cities are bang up to date, with galleries, museums and theatre, Michelin-starred dining and entertaining nightlife giving you so much to do.

So many varied destinations and experiences are waiting – and the best news of all is that they are all so close at hand. Enjoy!











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Awards success for homebuilder

PROPERTY developers Bellway Home received 23 Quality Awards at this year's NHBC Pride In The Job awards.

The annual awards recognise outstanding quality in housebuilding throughout the UK. Drawn from a pool of some 13,000 site managers across the UK, Pride In The Job rewards the best site managers responsible for managing the construction of homes from start to finish and who have a unique influence on the overall quality of the finished product.

The company has recently been involved in housing schemes in Canterbury, Rochester and Maidstone and its surrounding villages.

For more than 30 years, Pride In The Job has been at the forefront of the National House Building Council's work to improve housing standards for the benefit of home-owners.

It is the only UK-wide competition that is dedicated to, and directly recognises, site managers who demonstrate commitment to achieving high standards in housebuilding.

John Watson, chief executive of Bellway, said: "The awards are highly regarded within the industry – winners earn the true respect of their peers. Anyone gaining a first-round award is already in the top 3 per cent of their profession and can be very proud of their achievement.

"To have continuously improved over the last four years demonstrates our commitment to providing the best-quality homes for our buyers."

Regional winners will be announced at ceremonies in the autumn, with successful individuals then progressing to the Grand Gala Final in London in January.

Take advantage of a slump in prices

DEVELOPER Pentland Homes, has reduced the prices at its Henbury Manor development, bringing two of the farm-style family homes under £500,000 and so reducing the burden of 4 per cent stamp duty.

Henbury Manor is a farm-style development in the countryside of the Elham Valley.

It features six properties, one of which is now sold, leaving five elegant four-bedroom homes.

Pentland Homes is hosting an open day on Sunday (July 15) to showcase the properties and discuss the part-exchange scheme with interested purchasers.

Janet Burnell, sales and marketing director, said: "We recognise we are in tough economic times and people who want to purchase properties may be finding it hard to sell theirs, hence introducing our part-exchange scheme here.

"We've also taken another look at our prices and reduced them to reflect the current economic climate.

"I believe these homes now offer genuinely good value – they're beautifully finished to an exceptionally high standard and in a wonderful countryside location."



GOOD VALUE: The Henbury Manor development

The homes at Henbury Manor feature a mixture of brickwork, timber, flint and weatherboard to reflect their Kent heritage, while inside, each property is slightly different in size, design and layout to suit different family requirements.

Three of the homes also come with a section of wooded area for private use.

Prices for the remaining properties at Henbury Manor range from £469,995 to £594,995.



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£180,000-£200,000
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Green Street Green, Orpington
Price Reduction £600,000
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East Sutton, Kent
Guide Price £150,000
Existing commercial building with planning for a single storey 2 bedroom holiday home



Tonbridge, Kent
Guide Price £500,000
Site with planning for 5 x 2 bed town houses with courtyard gardens close to the station and town centre



Brighton
Guide Price £175,000
Site with a part built 3 bed detached Mediterranean style property for completion with courtyard garden, parking and views



Groombridge, East Sussex
£450,000-£500,000
1 acre plot on the edge of Ashdown Forest for a detached dwelling, subject to planning



Lamberhurst Quarter, Kent
£200,000-£250,000
3 bed property in need of total refurbishment/renovation or redevelopment subject to planning



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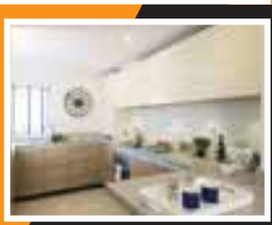
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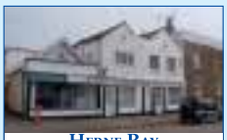
*Source: homes24.co.uk database May 201

Major Four Day

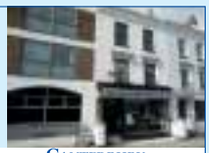
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Blean
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Lydd
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Guide: £120-150,000



Deal
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Guide: £480-500,000



Lydd
2 Plots - Each Consent for 2 houses
Guide: From £55-65,000



Margate
Part Let Iconic Building
Guide: £360-400,000



Dover
Terrace house for Improvement
Guide: £45-50,000



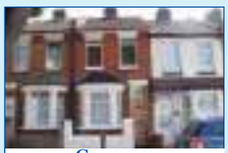
Broadstairs
Two Bed Flat in Good Location
Guide: £20-25,000



Minster, Sheerness
Art-Deco Style Property
Guide: £80-90,000



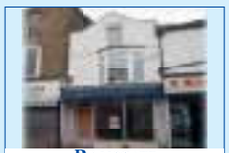
Whitstable
Freehold Business Unit
Guide: £70-75,000



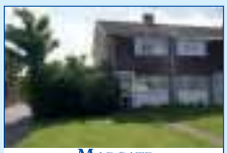
Chatham
House for Improvement
Guide: £65-75,000



Ramsgate
Bungalow for Updating
Guide: £95-100,000



Ramsgate
Freehold Shop and Maisonette
Guide: £55-60,000



Margate
House in Good Location
Guide: £80-85,000



Swanscombe
House for Improvement
Guide: £100-110,000



Dartford
Commercial Unit
Guide: £30-40,000



Allhallows
2 Bed Ground Floor Flat
Guide: £35-45,000



West Mersea, Essex
Freehold Beach Hut
Guide: £9-11,000



Four Elms
Planning for Detached House
Guide: £280-300,000



Gillingham
House for Improvement
Guide: £75-80,000



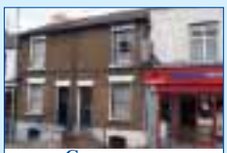
Ightham, Sevenoaks
Half Acre Roadside Wooded Plot
Guide: £5-10,000



Gillingham
Office Investment
Guide: £80-85,000



Paddock Wood
Bungalow for Improvement/ Development
Guide: £195-205,000



Gillingham
House for Refurbishment
Guide: £65-70,000



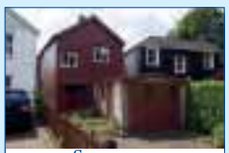
Gravesend
House for Improvement
Guide: £95-100,000



Sittingbourne
Retail with Conversion Potential
Guide: £135-145,000



Tonbridge
Period Semi for Improvement
Guide: £180-190,000



Sevenoaks
House for Improvement
Guide: £195-205,000

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Image: ★★★★★
Space: ★★★★
Value: ★★★★
Running costs: ★★★
Reliability: ★★★★★
How green?: ★★★★
Best rival: VW Scirocco R

Restraint of the VXR beast

VAUXHALL'S first Astra VXR was talented yet flawed.

It was the most powerful hot hatch on UK roads then and looked it, but I called it 'The Beast' due to wild road manners.

Attempting to put 240PS (236bhp) down on tarmac was always going to be a struggle and the VXR's steering wheel bucked in your hands, particularly in the wet, and the ride was hard, too.

Rather than a pleasure, driving was like persuading a Rottweiler to go quietly to the vet's.

So what did Vauxhall do for generation two? Make it even more powerful, of course, but this is a very different beast.

In fact, its predecessor seems to have been a watershed for the sporty VXR sub-brand. Vauxhall has since adopted a more realistic brief: the power and chassis is nice to have but not so that driver and passengers must suffer all the time.

So, the existing Insignia and Corsa VXRs are useable everyday cars with the capability to do much more when opportunity arises – the Rottweiler trots at heel until the driver decides to unleash it.

Following the same philosophy, the new Astra (£26,995) is tipped to become VXR's best-seller, despite an awesome 280PS (275bhp), making it the most powerful car in its class.

Learning from its unruly predecessor (2005-10) Vauxhall has fitted a limited slip differential to enable the Astra to apply as much power as possible without hopping from one front wheel to the other and causing the dreaded 'torque steer' for which the old car was infamous.

It's not a complete cure, but the torque steer is milder and very much at extremes of power output in a straight line.

Cornering is an enthusiast's delight, though, with the VXR wanting to oversteer or step out – predictably, mind you – like a rear-wheel-drive car, rather than run wide as a front-wheel-drive set-up should.

I'm sure it's great fun on a track, as you can also fiddle with the tautness of the suspension by selecting Sport mode or the extreme VXR setting.

But this new Astra is as much about looks as performance, definitely making the most of the stunning three-door Astra GTC design from Vauxhall/Opel's British design guru Mark Adams and his team.

Sitting on huge 19- or 20-inch alloys, wearing a smart yet discreet body kit and kicked-up rear spoiler, the VXR looks the part.

The cabin is sharp, too, with bespoke VXR sports seats and quality interior that's also surprisingly practical; with suspension on Normal mode, this road-going rocket can actually function as a family runabout.

Vauxhall sees its rivals as the VW Scirocco R and the Renault Megane Renaultsport, but the new VXR beast is the bargain, thanks to looks and generous standard kit.



MEANING BUSINESS: Vauxhall's Astra VXR is not only the most powerful car in its class, but it also looks the part, with huge alloy wheels and smart yet discreet body kit and spoiler

DON'T LIKE

... the electronic parking brake and the auto stop/start seem odd if welcome in a car that is clearly not intended to be eco-friendly

NOT SURE

... the badge competes on prestige with the Scirocco R, but the Astra's style and interior does underline Vauxhall's steady shift upmarket

REALLY LIKE

... the all-round practicality built into the VXR; this is a fun car where a bloke really can say to 'er indoors "But I am buying a family car, honest!"

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Latest offering from VW gets well up on Apple's core values

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

HAS the car industry gone Apple-mad?

I've written previously about Chevrolet's hybrid electric car as the 'iVolt', since the interior has the Apple touch, while Hyundai has a string of models prefixed by an 'i' – the vowel with which Apple has already wowed the world.

There are many other examples and now I've been driving a new Volkswagen Up city car (from £7,995) in the classic Apple colour – white.

For heaven's sake, it even has a cheeky grin like the Apple Macintosh start-up icon – in white it looks like a boxer wearing a gumshield.

And while the Up needs to appeal to younger buyers, its cute yet functional three- or five-door style also works for everyone else – something of an Apple trait, too.

Like Apple products, though, you do pay a bit more for the Up and its more upmarket badge; cheaper versions of virtually the same car exist as the Seat Mii and Skoda Citigo.

However, the Up is more stylish, with its distinctive kicked-up rear window frame – only on the three-door, though – smart glass tailgate... and that front-end grin.

There are also nice touches like the adjustable false floor to the boot that allows you to stack tall items like suitcases upright when it's removed or, when in place, create a flat load space level with the folded seats – by the way, the boot is impressively big for this class.

To top this, Up second-hand values should also be higher than the Skoda or Seat when you come to sell.

There's just the one engine, a willing 1.0-litre petrol unit available with outputs of 60PS (59bhp) and 75PS (74bhp), but you won't notice much difference in town traffic, since the low-down pulling power is roughly the same. Only when the 75PS stretches its legs does extra power higher up the range become evident.

So if you can't afford the dearer 75PS models (from £10,515) you're not going to regret much, since the Up is such a fun package in basic form.

In many ways, it recalls the original 1960s Mini, with its wheel at each corner stance to maximise cabin space; it's enormous for the scale of the car, so it's no wonder that VW has promoted seeing how many people can cram into an Up, just as an earlier generation used to do with the Mini.

The driving is also Mini-esque; it corners and grips well, and while the engine is not exactly quiet, it's refined for a three-cylinder and revs well so that the little car is good fun in the cut and thrust of town traffic.

Nobody should be fazed by a long journey, either, especially with all that space and a surprisingly good ride quality.

The cabin is functional rather than luxurious and even top-spec models won't change that impression, but it's funky and well organised, with robust materials used, and blanked-off panels do not disfigure the cheaper models.

For example, if you go for sat-nav, this sits in a little pod on top of the dash.

The test car happened to be a flagship High Up with the BlueMotion Technology package that makes the car exempt from road tax – mind you, tax on other Ups is only £20 annually after the first year anyway.

Of course, there's a saving on fuel, too; the BlueMotion has an official combined cycle of 68.9mpg, while the standard 75PS engine returns 60.1mpg.

But the best buys are the cheaper 60PS models that still return 62.8mpg on the combined cycle – so, no real need to trade up for your Up.

VW HIGH UP BLUEMOTION 3-DR: PRICE £10,875



HIGH RISER: The interior of VW's eco Up, although not luxurious, is enormous for the size of the car and offers good ride quality both for long journeys and around town

FACT FILE

Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Road tax:	Zero
Best rival:	Fiat 500 TwinAir

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First GEAR

MOTORING NEWS



Chevy and its space 'Cruzer'

CHEVROLET has announced typically aggressive pricing from £15,375 on its new Focus-class Cruze Station Wagon, due this autumn.

This new estate looks sharp, too, though still offers a creditable 1,478 litres of load space with rear seats folded flat.

Standard kit includes air-con, electrically-heated/adjustable mirrors, roof rails, rear and boot 12v power sockets and electronic boot release.



Fourth strong with new Clio

RENAULT has confirmed it will launch its fourth-generation Clio supermini early next year.

The latest example of the French marque's best-seller is expected to set benchmark economy levels, with weight savings of about 100 kilos against its predecessor and powertrains including Renault's first three-cylinder engine – a turbocharged 900cc unit.

A dual-clutch auto transmission makes its debut.



An upgrade for the Citroën C5

CITROËN has facelifted its stylish C5 saloon and Tourer (estate) family-size range for the first time since its launch in 2008, when it was pitched as a 'teutonically-inspired' riposte to premium German models.

Apart from cosmetics, the revised range (from £19,895) offers £700 Techno Pack upgrades on alloys, parking sensors, eMyWay satnav/audio/connectivity package, chrome window sills and front foglights.

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the i30 Active 1.4 are: Urban 35.8 (7.9), Extra Urban 57.6 (4.9), Combined 47.1 (6.0), CO2 Emissions 139 g/km. Price shown includes delivery, first registration fee, number plates, 12 months Road Fund Licence and relevant customer saving (dependant on model) subject to purchase and registration taking place between 1st July 2012 and 30th September 2012. ^The finance advertised is provided by Hyundai Motor Finance Ltd, RH1 1SR and is only available to private retail customers over 18 years of age and resident in the UK (excluding Channel Islands and Isle of Man). Finance offers are not available for customers under the Hyundai Affinity Programme. Terms and conditions apply. At the end of the Personal Contract Purchase there are three options: (i) Renew: Part exchange the vehicle, where equity is available (ii) Retain: Pay the Optional Final Payment to own the vehicle or (iii) Return the vehicle. Further charges may be made subject to the condition of the vehicle. Finance is subject to status and indemnities may be required. The Guaranteed Future Value was quoted using June Residual Values and may change on the 3rd July 2012. This offer applies to new vehicles purchased in the UK and registered between 1st July 2012 and 30th September 2012 inclusive. Offer is subject to availability and may be withdrawn or varied at any time. Other finance offers may be available. All figures correct at time of going to press. Warranty and offers only available on new cars purchased in the UK and sourced through Hyundai Motor UK Ltd or its authorised dealers. See your local participating dealer for full warranty terms and exclusions or visit http://www.hyundai.co.uk/owners/5YearWarranty/. On the road price (cash price) includes VAT where applicable, delivery, vehicle first registration fee, number plates and 12 months' Road Fund Licence.

MOTORING

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It's time to get ready for the Dacia dust-up

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk



RENAULT has started a price war with the long-awaited launch of its value-brand Dacia.

The Romanian-based range is in such demand elsewhere that Renault claims this as a key reason that it has delayed production of right-hand drive (rhd) examples for the UK.

Indeed, prospective Dacia Duster SUV-buyers must drive left-hand-drive demonstrators at dealers for now since rhd deliveries are still a few months away.

But they probably won't mind since Duster prices start at £8,995, almost half that of Renault's own nearest equivalent, the Scenic MPV at £18,335, and a huge drop from the £16,595 for the cheapest Qashqai SUV from Renault group sister brand Nissan – the Duster's closest equivalent on the UK market.

Even trading up to a 4x4 Duster model costs just £2,000 extra, while you can also extend the standard three-year/60,000-mile warranty to seven/100,000 by paying an extra £850.

It all makes you wonder just what Renault is playing at when the French brand itself has had such a trying time of late in the UK, causing it to trim its range drastically at the start of 2012 and leaving dealers to mutter that the next generation of Renault's big-selling Clio super-mini can't come soon enough. For the record, the Duster entry model is also £1,355 less than Renault's cheapest conventional car, the three-door Twingo city car.

However, before queues form at five Renault dealers appointed to sell Dacia across Kent – Motorline at Ashford, Canterbury and Maidstone, and Lifestyle at Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells – note that the cheapest Duster will be rather spartan and its £8,995 price-tag means rubber bumpers, steel wheels and no radio – yes, you heard right, or rather, nothing unless you pay extra.

In reality, two-thirds of buyers are expected to choose to trade up to the flagship Lauréate trim, costing from £12,995, though this is still a lot of car for the money when standard kit includes alloys, air-con, electric windows, leather-trimmed steering wheel, satin chrome roof bars, heated and electrically-adjustable door mirrors and a major cabin upgrade.

Mid-range Ambiance trim (£11,495 for front-wheel drive, £13,495 for 4x4) and upwards also gives buyers access to Renault's excellent 1.5dCi 110 diesel engine, such a hit in the Nissan Qashqai and surely suited to this cut-price sister model/rival.

Yes, you also wonder what Nissan dealers are thinking about Renault's head-office management...



Fuel consumption figures for the Civic 1.4 i-VTEC SE Manual / Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC S A/C Manual in mpg (l/100km):
Urban Urban 42.2 (6.7) / 42.8 (6.6), Extra Urban 60.1 (4.7) / 61.4 (4.6), 52.3 (5.4), Combined 52.3 (5.4) / 53.3 (5.3). CO_2 emissions: 129 / 123 g/km.

Models shown: Civic 1.4 i-VTEC SE Manual in Alabaster Silver and Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC S A/C Manual in Alabaster Silver. **Terms and Conditions:** Nil Advanced payment offer on Civic 1.4 i-VTEC SE Manual and Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC S A/C Manual. All offers are correct at the time of going to print however Honda (UK) reserves the right to change this offer at any time. Models subject to availability. Written details available on request. The facilities offered are for the hire of goods. The scheme is available to recipients of the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance or War Pensioners Mobility Supplement. To qualify for this offer you must be in receipt of a minimum of 12 months allowance. Valid for applications between 1 July to 30 September 2012 to Motability Operations Limited (Registered Company No. 1373876), City Gate House, 22 Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 9HB. Promoter is Honda Motor Europe Limited trading as Honda (UK) at 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY.



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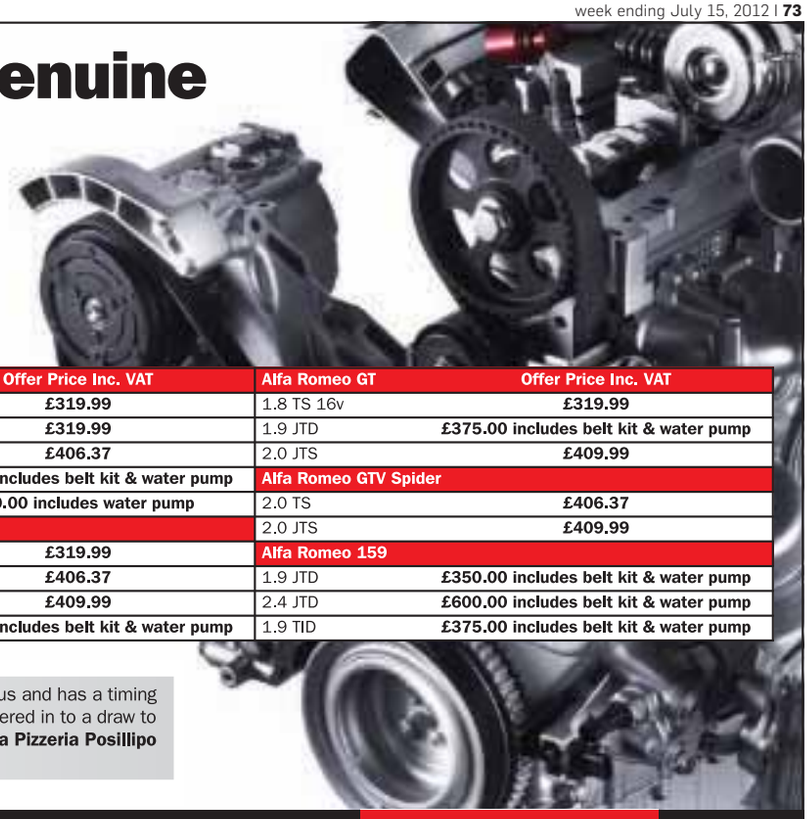
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VAUXHALL

Soft Top Buyer's Guide

Convert to opentop driving

By Sam Davison
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk





POPULAR: The third-generation Porsche Boxster has just arrived, left; the Fiat 500C La Dolce Vita – this rolltop convertible model oozes 1950s retro charm, right

AFTER the rain we've had lately, it sounds mad to say that the UK is one of Europe's top markets for convertibles.

But maybe getting the top down is all the more important to us when the opportunity comes so rarely – and summer must arrive soon, surely?

Then there's the heritage factor: UK manufacturers were early leaders in opentop motoring with classics including the three-wheeler Morgans – soon to be revived – Triumph TRs, glorious Jaguar XKs, the E-Type and, of course, MGs.

Indeed, after the Second World War, markets all around the globe bought into the affordable British opentop-motoring phenomenon as our carmakers were driven to export and pull the country out of post-war depression.

But then the doldrums set in for wind-in-the-hair driving. As the UK car industry declined, companies felt they could not divert valuable research and development into a niche market.

Classics like the MGB were allowed to become outmoded, and the few imported convertibles tended to be equally flaky or exorbitant luxuries.

Then Mazda created the MX-5 in the late 1980s. It could have worn a Triumph or MG badge, but while those marques undoubtedly inspired it, they could not emulate its balance and reliability.

Starved of affordable croptop motoring for so long, and the engine soundtrack that often goes with it, the British public couldn't get enough MX-5s – and soon there were other players.

The MX-5 also introduced a properly weather-tight roof that could be raised or lowered in a matter of seconds.

As more convertibles entered the market, so the quality of weather and sound insulation improved. Heated-glass rear screens became the norm and many premium models also came with an electrically-raised/lowered roof.

And then Mercedes-Benz made headlines by launching the two-seat SLK roadster in 1996, featuring a folding hardtop.

Others rushed to copy the idea as many buyers realised the dream of a convertible for all seasons; one that was more secure and usually more refined than one with a softtop.

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SOFT TOP

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Croptop Mercs to suit all tastes





By Sam Davison
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

MERCEDES-BENZ didn't invent the folding hardtop roof – Peugeot did that in 1934 – but the German premium marque's 1996 SLK roadster popularised it.

Many imitators followed, to the point where some motoring pundits suggested that the fabric roof was doomed.

That hasn't happened and Mercedes' own extensive convertibles line-up shows there is room for both types.

Hardtops are secure but take up more boot space when folded so they are better suited to two-seaters – the roof has to span a smaller space, meaning there is less to stow.

And fabric roofs are much improved, the quality of aerodynamics, insulation and refinement being far better than they were just a few years ago.

Mercedes-Benz has also promoted lots of other aids to open-air motoring comfort such as heater ducts in head restraints to direct warm or cooling air at neck level – the so-called Airscarf – and wind deflectors for 'top down mode' to stop air swirling around behind occupants to cause higher noise levels and lower temperature.

The third generation in the modern SLK series is both the most visible Mercedes-Benz convertible and the market's best-known exponent of the folding hardtop, but it is competing for headlines now with the latest in the bigger and longer-running SL series – new this year.



CHOICES: Clockwise from bottom left... big and sporty open-air star – the all-new Mercedes-Benz SL; instigator of the folding hardtop trend – the Mercedes-Benz SLK; open-air motoring in style – the Mercedes-Benz E-Class Cabriolet

The SL is at the forefront of comfortable open-air sports-car motoring, although it's not the brand's most prestigious model in this exclusive sector; the roadster version of the SLS supercar has that honour.

In contrast with these sporting open-air models, Mercedes-Benz also offers the elegant and comfortable four-seat E-Class Cabriolet – a luxurious way for the family to enjoy convertible motoring.

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SOFT **TOP**

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Sporting Boxster hits the heights

By Sam Davison
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

MANY opentop sports cars or roadsters are created from coupe models, but Porsche decided to build the Boxster from the the ground up.

This made the bodywork extremely rigid, even under extreme handling, and with its mid-mounted engine the Boxster became an instant classic.

A third-generation model has now just been launched to great acclaim.

As with its 911 supercar big brother – also pictured here in opentop Cabriolet form – Porsche has ensured that the new Boxster is derived visually from its predecessors.

Even so, it looks wider, lower and more aggressive than before and now has a fully electric hood that opens to reveal a distinctive and typically stylish Porsche interior, with more space and a centre console inspired by the German marque's Carrera GT supercar.

With more powerful engines and weight-savings of up to 35 kilos, the newcomer is also the most agile yet.

Porsche also says that the latest Boxster S flagship has lapped the testing German Nürburgring-Nordschleife race circuit in 7:58 minutes – lopping 12 seconds off the time clocked by its predecessor.





CHOICES: The Boxster (top) was built from scratch; however, big brother the Porsche 911 also comes in soft-top format

Fiat's retro retractable roof's a star

IN keeping with the UK's status as a major opentop market, Fiat offered its 500C convertible for sale here before anywhere else in the world – including its Italian home market.

As its hatchback parent model does to the 1950s 500 Nuevo model, the 500C pays homage to the original 1957 fabric-roof version.

However, it is 50 years ahead for refinement and convenience. Aerodynamic research means turbulence with the roof open has been reduced to a minimum, while an electric sliding roof makes the 500C a year-round proposition.

It also has an exclusive feel to its interior, embellished with top-quality desirable fabrics and optional Frau leather upholstery, and a long list of standard and optional features from automatic climate control to innovative Interscope hi-fi, and the Blue&Me Map portable navigation unit.

There is also plenty of powertrain choice, including a 1.3-litre diesel for the ultimate in economy driving, but the smart choice is the low emission 0.9-litre TwinAir petrol unit.



COOL: Customisation and special editions have made the 500C a must-have fashion accessory



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FOOTBALL

The rolling Stones come back home in style after rising from the ashes

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

IT has taken 24 years, and in doing so skipped generations of supporters, but finally, this weekend, Maidstone United are back playing in their own town with a sell-out pre-season friendly against Brighton.

The club went from the dizzy heights of playing in front of thousands in the Football League in the early 90s to oblivion, entertaining a handful of hardcore supporters on park pitches.

But after fighting its way back up the leagues on a firmer financial footing it has managed to build a new £2.6m stadium of its own.

It puts an end to the two decades of groundsharing with Dartford, Ashford and Sittingbourne which meant fans had not seen a 'home' game in the town for nearly a quarter of a century, and on occasions have had to travel less distance to away games.

"It's been an absolute rollercoaster," said club secretary Darren Lovell. "There have been a few dark times. We went from the Football League to a Sunday youth team.

"It was phenomenal going from watching them at Burnley's Turf Moor in front of 11,000 to a game against Scott Sports reserves. With the greatest respect, who are they?

"We were a little bit of a strange thing; we had supporters following a Sunday league team.

"I've had away games that are closer to where we've played at home, and we've got generations of supporters we've lost that have never seen them play in Maidstone - it's a significant thing."

The club's Football League decline has been well documented over the years; held up as an example of how it over-stretched and the high cost of a string of poor business decisions.

The year before they finally clinched promotion into the league they had sold their London Road ground to MFI for a new superstore.

They moved to Dartford where they shared the non-league club's Watling Street stadium.



COMPLETION: Maidstone's Gallagher Stadium has had the final touches put in place this week

But having over spent to reach the promised land the financial pressures became too much.

An attempt to move back to Maidstone saw the club splash out £400,000 on a site in Hollingbourne - only to be denied permission to develop it by the local council. The writing was on the wall. Just two weeks into the 1992/93 season they collapsed into liquidation and resigned from the league.

The club was dissolved but would rise from the ashes later that year as Maidstone Invicta. However, the road back to glory would be a long and hard one, starting at the very bottom of the Kent football pyramid.

It was too much for Lovell who had previously travelled around the country to watch them.

"We were reduced to playing on school pitches; I couldn't watch park football," he said. "We always had a laugh and a joke, but for me it was very difficult, my club had died.

"The support base went from 5,000, a really good support base, to a handful of hardcore supporters of about three figures. At it's lowest it was 30 at the most. There was only so much you could take.

"I went away got married and had children, I didn't watch a game for years."

Slowly but surely, however, they rose up the ranks, emerging into the Kent League and then winning promotion into the Ryman League.

They certainly won't be playing on a park pitch again.

Their new 3G astroturf surface is state-of-the-art. It's the same kind used in Moscow's Luzhniki Stadium which hosted World Cup qualifiers including Russia vs England and Champions League ties involving Premier League clubs Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur. So it would have to take some stormy weather to stop the Stones getting out on pitch.

Commercially, too, it has agreed some substantial deals including a £150,000 five-year stadium naming rights deal with the Gallagher Group and a shirt sponsorship deal with Britelite. Now the club is hoping to utilise its playing surface throughout the week and not rely on gate receipts to keep them afloat.

The stadium includes function rooms and a bar to hire out for extra revenue too.

The club is hoping to average just over half of its 2,000 capacity through the season, with the main attraction a 400-seater stand.

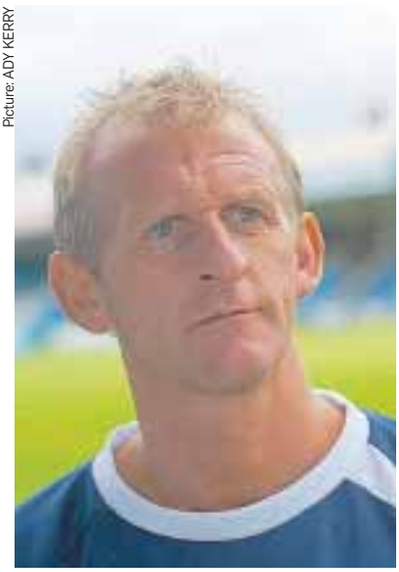
"Last year, we averaged 355, which apart from Bognor Regis, was the biggest average in the league," Lovell reflects. "Dartford's first game in their new stadium was at home to Horsham YMCA and was a 4,100 sellout.

"We can't get 4,000 in here, but we are expecting to go the right way to increase the number of supporters, with a regular 1,100 throughout the season."

Lovell said the club wouldn't be where it was today without the army of volunteers who have given up their time to drag it back to life, as well as the clubs who have hosted them.

He said: "I would like to put on record my thanks, without them we wouldn't be here today, it's kept us alive, that needs public acknowledgement."

Picture: ADY KERRY



RUSH: Hectic start to life at Gills for Schofield

FOOTBALL

Schofield reunited again with Martin Allen as double act look to plot Gills' return to promotion success

GILLINGHAM'S new assistant manager John Schofield is hoping to play his part in taking the club to the next level.

The 47-year-old has linked up with new boss Martin Allen for the second time in his career.

The pair worked together at Cheltenham Town in 2009 where he worked as Allen's assistant.

It was a whirlwind start for the man who spent the majority of his playing days at Lincoln where he made 231 appearances in six years in the early 1990s.

He made a mad dash down from his home in Lincoln to put together a training programme last Thursday.

"I took a call on the Wednesday from the gaffer saying he'd got the job and would I be interested in speaking to him? He said we are starting in the morning, normal time," he said.

"I was up at three in the morning and here at 6am to do a training programme, I met the chairman at 10.30am, then met the players at 2.30pm and it was 8pm, or 9pm that night that we finished. It's been full on."

He took training sessions over the weekend which included a swimming session at the Strand Leisure Pool, before joining the rest of the squad on an excursion to Le Touquet in the north of France for a four-day training trip, from which they will return on Tuesday.

He is hoping they can build on the foundations laid by former boss Andy Hessenthaler.

"It's about making a difference and pushing the club forward, that's what we are aiming to achieve," he said. "We have been getting to know the players, making sure we get our philosophy into them right for pre-season.

"The training ground is good, and facilities around the place are lovely. Now we want to move it forward again."

But before the season starts there is plenty of hard work to get through: "It's about injury prevention, aerobic levels, and getting the maximum out of the players.

"As an assistant, your role is to support the manager with discussions and communications. You work together to formulate a game plan, you spend the early part of the week drip feeding the players that information.

"I'll be organising the coaching and fitness levels, working with Patto (Mark Patterson) and the development group to make sure they're continually progressing."

Another new member of the backroom staff is strength and conditioning coach James Russell who is a former pupil at St John Fisher School in Chatham. He worked with Allen at Notts County.

Youth team physio James Barker has been promoted to look after first team affairs, replacing Steve Allen who joined the club in 2010 when Andy Hessenthaler became boss.

MOTORSPORT

Byrne looking to find form at the 'world's best track'

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

SHANE Byrne is looking forward to returning to home soil next week as the British Superbike Championship heads to Brands Hatch.

With the championships at the half-way stage the pressure is mounting on riders to get themselves into a position where they can challenge in the top six in the showdown series.

Byrne is on course to achieve that after picking up two seconds and a third at Oulton Park last week. He has also shown great form at Brands in the last few years.

In the 2011 season he finished with six podiums from eight races, while in the other two he finished 16th and 6th. He is currently second in the podium credits table with 17 points, seven behind Tommy Hill, while in the overall standings he is third with 209 points, 29 behind Hill, and one behind Josh Brookes who is second.

He said: "Brands is like home, I cycle up there regularly just to say hello to all the guys and girls.

"I really love the long circuits, it's probably one of my favourite circuits in the world, I really look forward to riding there. It's the first track I ever raced on and won on. It's like an amphitheatre, everybody can watch."

He is hoping to learn from mistakes made last season when he admits it took too long to get to grips with new parts on his machine in the crucial showdown rides.

"It's getting to a fairly crucial part of the season where you can make it through to the showdown which is the be all and end all," he said. "It's important to rack up the podium credits and get ourselves in a position where when we get to the showdown races we have a chance to fight for every race.

"Last year going into the showdowns we starting adding new parts to the bike and it took a while to figure it out."

Despite last week's podiums he knows he has more work to do.

"Last weekend we had two seconds and a third, some people would say that's fantastic, but for me it's a pretty bitter pill to swallow," he said. "It means I have got more work to do."

Picture: NICKY DUNGAN



IMPROVEMENT: Shane Byrne knows he has work to do despite picking up three podiums at Oulton

FOOTBALL

Birchall back in the fold after a year out with knee injury

ADAM Birchall has praised his team mates for helping him come through his injury nightmare.

Big things were expected of the 27-year-old when he signed from Dover last summer where he scored 68 goals in 74 games in two seasons, but his career at Priestfield never started. He broke down with a knee injury on July 14 in a pre-season game against Welling United and has been on a long road to recovery.

It was just three months ago that he finally kicked a ball again without any pain, and is fully involved in pre-season training again although he isn't flying into any tackles just yet.

He said: "It was a massive test of how much I wanted it and my professionalism, my character, but everyone has got around me, the fans ,the chairman and the boys in the dressing room. I'm back at the point where I'm nearly playing again and I just can't wait."

He said any thoughts of it happening again quickly disappear once he's out on the pitch.

"When you're on the pitch and you're playing you switch on and you're in the zone, you forget about it," he said. "I have been reined in when I needed to be though."

He insists he is feeling no pressure other than what he places on himself.

"Expectations are my own, as a pro I've played for a long time now, you know what's expected of you," he said. "My level, no matter what someone thinks I should be doing, is ten times higher.

"The more pressure you have shows you're achieving something and going further in your life, and I love that."

Picture: ADAM BIRCHALL



FIT: Birchall ready to go for Gills

ATHLETICS

Golden Gemili now firmly among the running elite

ADAM Gemili set a host of new records when he became the World Junior Champion in Barcelona this week.

The 18-year-old ran a new PB time of 10.05s, which is a new championship record, and a new British Junior record beating the previous best of 10.06s set by Dwain Chambers 15 years ago.

The Blackheath and Bromley athlete blitzed his opposition in the final on Wednesday night with the USA's Aaron Ernest finishing second in 10.17s, while Odean Skeen of Jamaica completed the podium with 10.28s.

He sprang onto the Olympic radar in Germany in June when he became the fastest Brit this year with a 10.08s run which earned him his place in Team GB.

When being interviewed trackside after the race he said: "I just told myself to stay relaxed and stay focused.

"I am not going to lie, I was nervous before the race; it's a World Junior final, it's in this stadium in Barcelona, how can you not be nervous? But you need to use your nerves in a good way, try to use them to help you run and I did it.

"This is a massive stepping stone for the Olympics. If I had only made the final it would have been a great achievement, to win makes it huge.

"I am feeling good and I am running well, I just feel there is a whole lot more to come."



WINNER: Gemili set new records

CRICKET



PATIENT: Adam Riley waiting for chance in side

Riley happy to wait for chance to shine while learning from master

KENT youngster Adam Riley is happy to bide his time for a first team place as he continues to learn from England ace James Tredwell

Riley made his debut in the first team last season and has since appeared fleetingly in the one day sides in the absence of Tredwell.

Tredwell's success for England is doubly pleasing for Riley, as while he's pleased that his team mate is representing his country, it also gives him a chance to sneak into the first team for a game or two.

"It's a case of being patient and waiting for opportunities; with Treddy doing well and getting called up for England it opens the door for me," he said.

"He knows I'm open to listening. He's very good with the younger players and with me, he's great to feed off.

"I wouldn't be ready for the cricket he's been playing, but when he goes to England it gives me a chance to step in for the twenty20s."

The 20-year-old played for the first team in the t20 at the Kia Oval against Surrey, taking two wickets, and became a hot topic on the social networking site Twitter.

He said: "I played the Surrey game on Sky and I took a couple of wickets. Once the game was finished Keysey (captain Rob Key) had his phone out and said I was trending on Twitter.

"There were three things trending, bananas, DNA and Adam Riley, there must have been a few saddos online at that stage. I can't imagine I'll ever trend on Twitter again."

He is one of a number of young players making their mark in the first team with Sam Northeast, Adam Ball, Adam Blake all staking a claim for a regular slot.

And while Riley feels the club was criticised for blooding them last year, it has worked out for the best.

"There was a lot last year with supporters saying 'we've thrown the youngsters in' and 'was it worth it?', but it's good because we've been exposed and come back stronger," he said.

"Last year we didn't have the competition for places. This year we've got strength in depth."

Kent get back to CB40 action on Monday when they play Sussex Sharks at Arundel and they resume their league campaign when bottom side Glamorgan visit Canterbury on Thursday.

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